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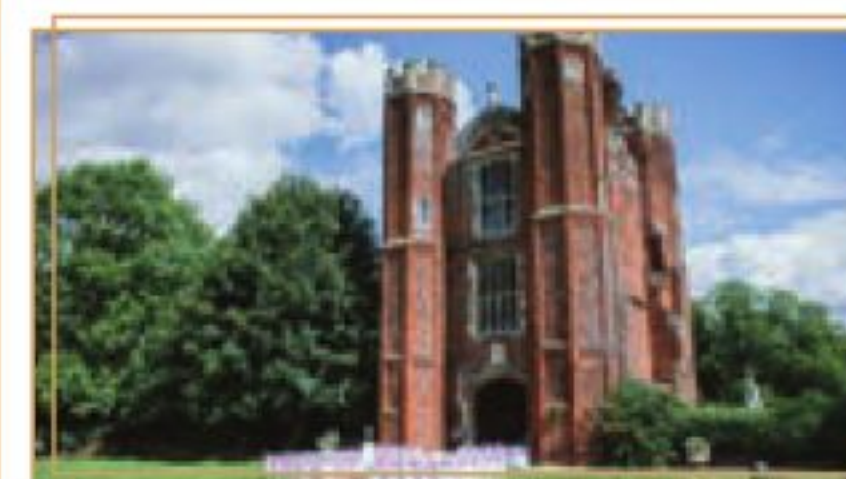
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## COUNTRY HOUSE WEDDINGS

*Exclusively Weddings, Exclusively Yours*





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# It's a love thing



Welcome to this edition and a whole new decade! If you started out the year with a sparkly new ring on your finger – congratulations, the journey starts here! With a flood of newly engaged couples following the festive period and Valentine's Day, love is in the air and there's a buzz of expectation.

We're excited for all the fabulous spring and summer weddings to come and although the first green shoots may still seem a way off, we're already swooning over gorgeous bridal gowns blooming with pretty floral details (page 79).

Local creatives from around the region have been busy showcasing their talents ahead of peak wedding season to bring you a wealth of inspiration covering everything from the traditional and romantic to the unconventional and alternative including a spellbinding *Harry Potter* themed photo shoot on page 65.

For all those just embarking on their wedding journey, while the weather's still chilly outside, now is the perfect time to get cracking with the planning. Doing your homework is vital, so grab your copy of the magazine and cosy up with your other half to check out our venue styling feature on page 59. Don't miss our go-to guide on how to nail the to-do list on page 69 either and remember to save the details of all your favourite things to create a moodboard or Instagram story. Your suppliers will love you for it, as it makes their job so much easier if they can share your big-day vision.

Happy planning!

*Sarah x*

Sarah Reeve,  
editor

**WIN!**

A HONEYMOON  
IN ITALY, WORTH  
£1,500 ON  
PAGE 109

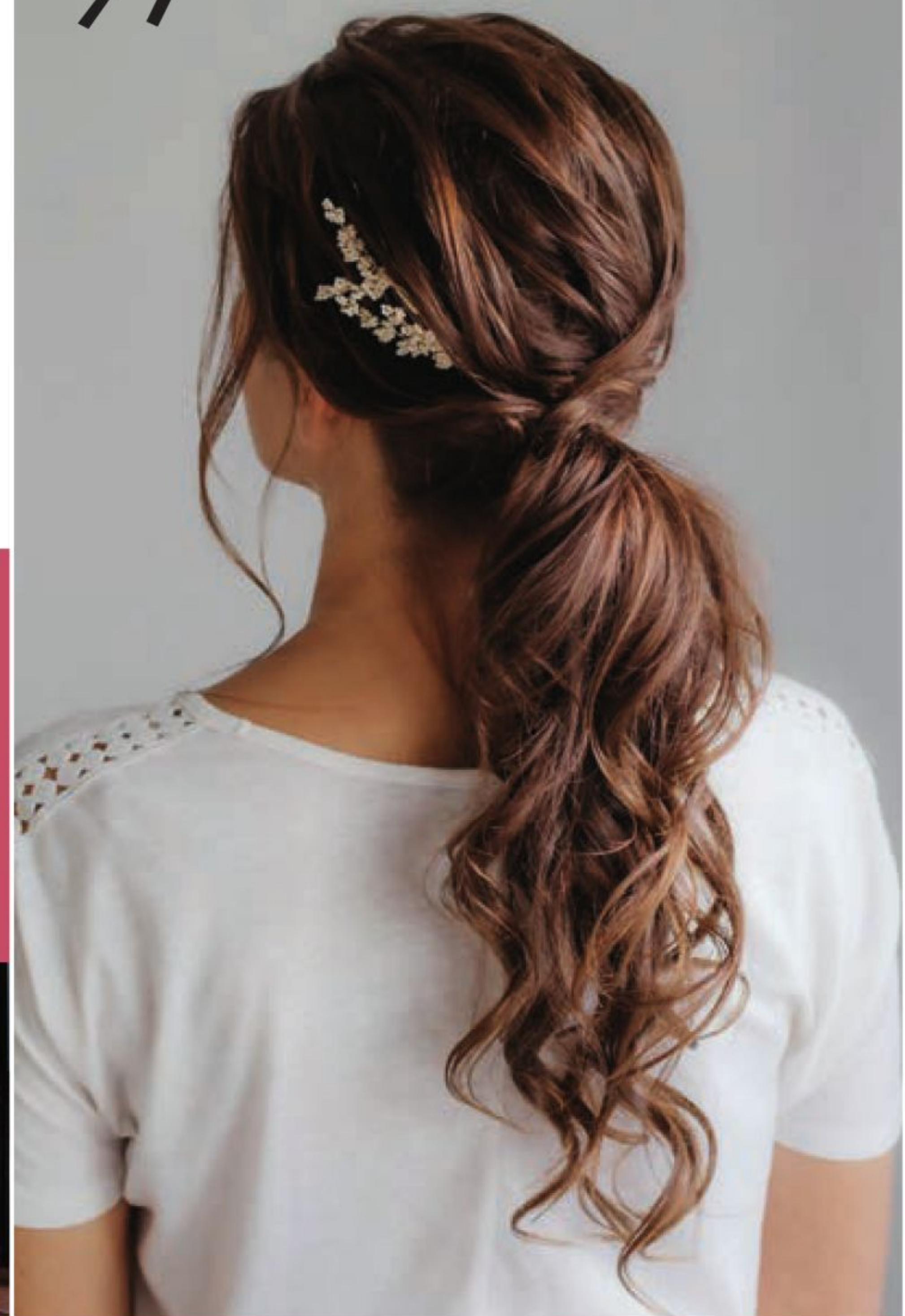


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Expect plenty of stop-stare moments at storybook Suffolk wedding venue Seckford Hall.

97



Add a sparkly hairpiece to natural understated bridal hair for an on-trend look.

36

If you love flowers, be prepared to swoon over Aimee and James' stunning Suffolk wedding.





33

Retro romance with a vintage vibe at Bury St Edmunds Guildhall.

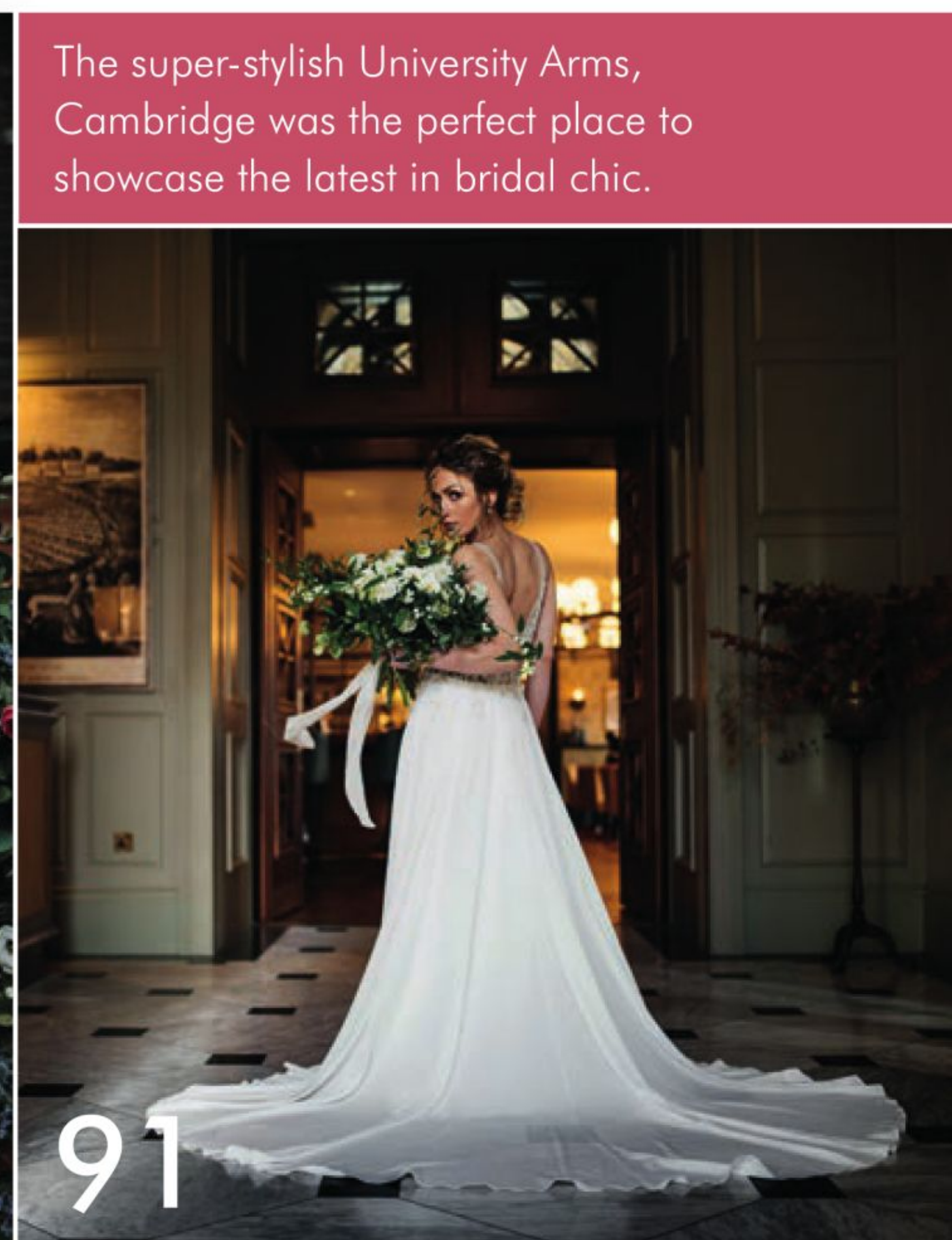


EDITOR'S LETTER

Kimbolton Castle in Cambridgeshire provided the ideal backdrop for this *Harry Potter* themed photo shoot featured on page 65.



Real life couple Emily and Taylor Mackintosh added an extra authentic touch to this romantic shoot at Norfolk's Hautbois Hall, featured on page 99.



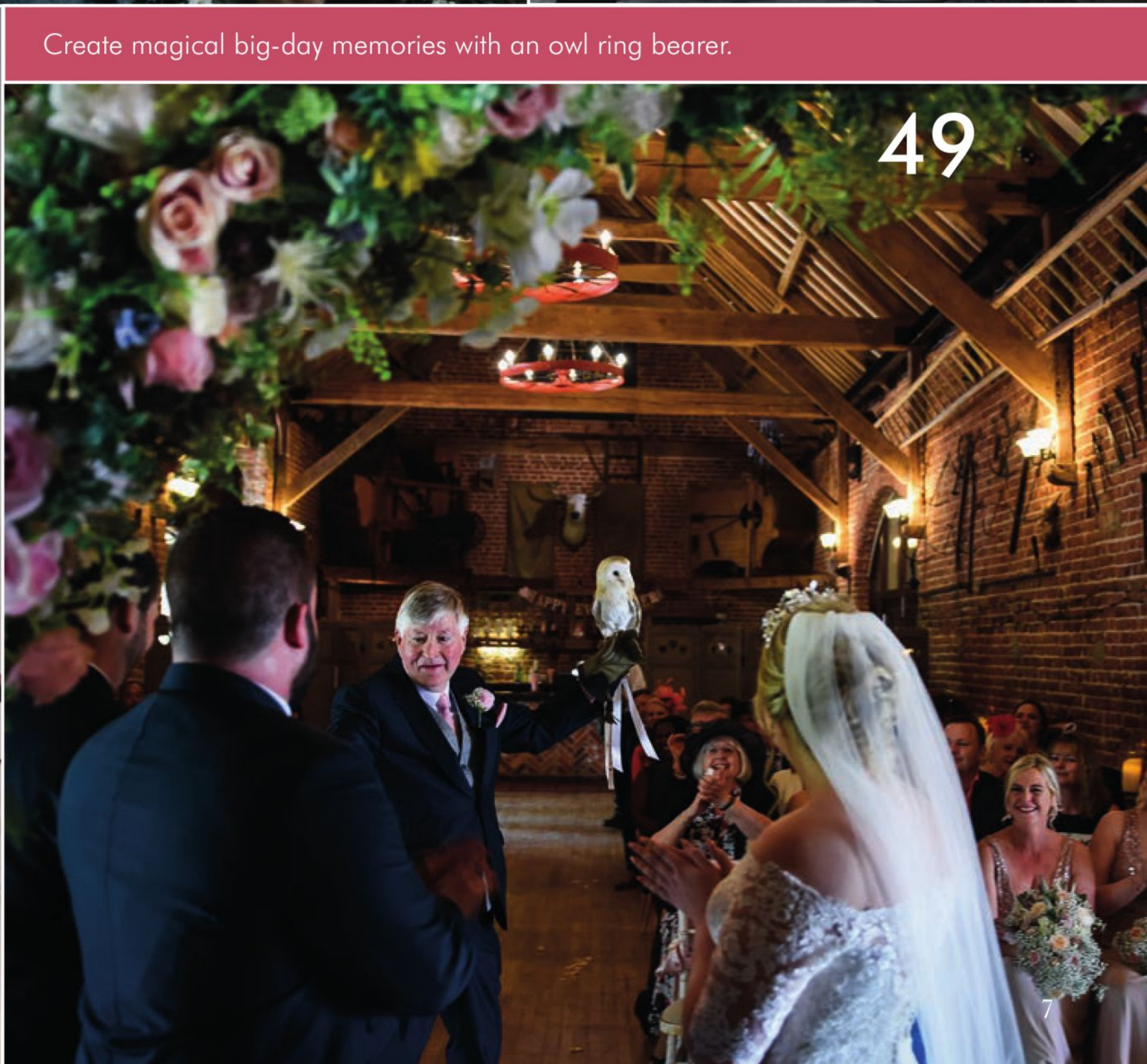
The super-stylish University Arms, Cambridge was the perfect place to showcase the latest in bridal chic.

91



85

Gorgeous back details are a bridal fashion trend that's going nowhere in 2020.



49

Create magical big-day memories with an owl ring bearer.





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the historic Market Square in Huntingdon. The building boasts two renovated  
Court Rooms to provide a unique and intimate setting for up to 60 guests.

For larger ceremonies and receptions, the Assembly Hall and  
Council Chamber provide elegant spaces for parties of up to 120.  
The Town Hall is available for viewing via appointment.

Should you wish to visit, please contact  
Hayley Burns on 01480 410380 or email [hayley.burns@huntingdowntown.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.burns@huntingdowntown.gov.uk)

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## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

If you're on the hunt for a waterside setting for your big day, The Boathouse on the banks of Norfolk's Ormesby Broad is a must-see. Set in 11 acres of beautiful parkland it's an idyllic location for a romantic wedding complete with luxury accommodation as well as fully equipped woodland lodges. The venue is hosting its annual wedding fair on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March, from 11am to 3pm; providing the perfect opportunity to not only meet a selection of great local wedding suppliers, but also to get a glimpse of the place. The Boathouse team will also be on hand for help and advice and to arrange appointments to view the venue. Visit [theboathouseormesbybroad.co.uk](http://theboathouseormesbybroad.co.uk)

## EDITOR LOVES...

This gorgeous flower crown and bouquet created by award-winning Cambridge florist Feather & Ferns beautifully complemented the magical flowing dresses from local bridal boutique Burr Bridal featured on page 91. The fashion shoot by Norfolk-based Markuza Photography was set at the chic University Arms Hotel in Cambridge.

# Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region



## A family affair

Owner of Great Yarmouth's Imperial Hotel Nick Mobbs is celebrating 36 years at the helm of the Norfolk seaside wedding venue. Over the last three-and-a-half decades, Nick and his family have overseen some major changes transforming it from a two-star to the highest rated four-star hotel in the area, with 39 en-suite bedrooms, three restaurants and a large function room.

Nick joined the family-run business in 1984 after his dad Roger asked him to step into the breach when the hotel manager handed in his notice. He hasn't looked back since and after their wedding in 1987, his wife Aileen joined the team too.

Nick says, "My overriding ambition has been, and always will be,

for the Imperial Hotel to be the best it can be. This has led us down all sorts of paths over the years, from redesigning the reception area in the 1990s, continually investing in staff and in the hotel, to adding on The Terrace in 2011 and reworking our à la carte menu in 2019 to achieve our second AA rosette."

As well as top-notch food the hotel prides itself on providing great customer service and an inviting setting for weddings. The large function room includes a dancefloor with an adjoining bar and a spacious dining room. It also boasts a prime seafront location, perfect for photos on the beach or in the Venetian Waterway Gardens opposite. Catering for weddings of all sizes from intimate affairs to evening receptions with 150 guests, it's a year-round destination hotspot. Visit [imperialhotel.co.uk](http://imperialhotel.co.uk)





## Above us only sky

Lovers of the great outdoors are sure to be impressed by the wide open spaces at new Norfolk outdoor wedding venue Wellington Wood. Offering 70 acres of private wildflower meadows and ancient woodlands in Northwold, it's the perfect big-day canvas for couples looking to style their day, their way. With two lovely spaces for ceremonies including The Larch, a new bespoke covered area, you can host your whole day at the eco- and pet-friendly venue. To see for yourself, an open day is being held on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April from 10am to 8pm. In keeping with the chilled atmosphere of the place, it will be a relaxed event with couples welcome to linger and look around – bring the family and dog along too. Local suppliers will be there to showcase ideas for al fresco weddings and a sailcloth marquee supplied by County Marquees East Anglia will also be set up so you can picture your whole day in the glorious setting. Visit [wellingtonwood.co.uk](http://wellingtonwood.co.uk) to find out more.



## CAKE FOR ALL

Norfolk cake maker Emma Thorburn is on a mission to make sure as many people as possible can enjoy her glorious wedding creations. Not only designed to look great and deliver the wow-factor, she's now made the decision to go dairy-free.

"It's been prompted by a few personal lifestyle changes and forward-thinking for the eco-system. In researching food science, and speaking to a persuasive amount of couples during the past few years, it came to light that there are so many food options and allergies and intolerances that need catering for. My move to convert Buns of Fun to dairy-free was therefore born out of wanting to include more folks in the cake appreciation process."

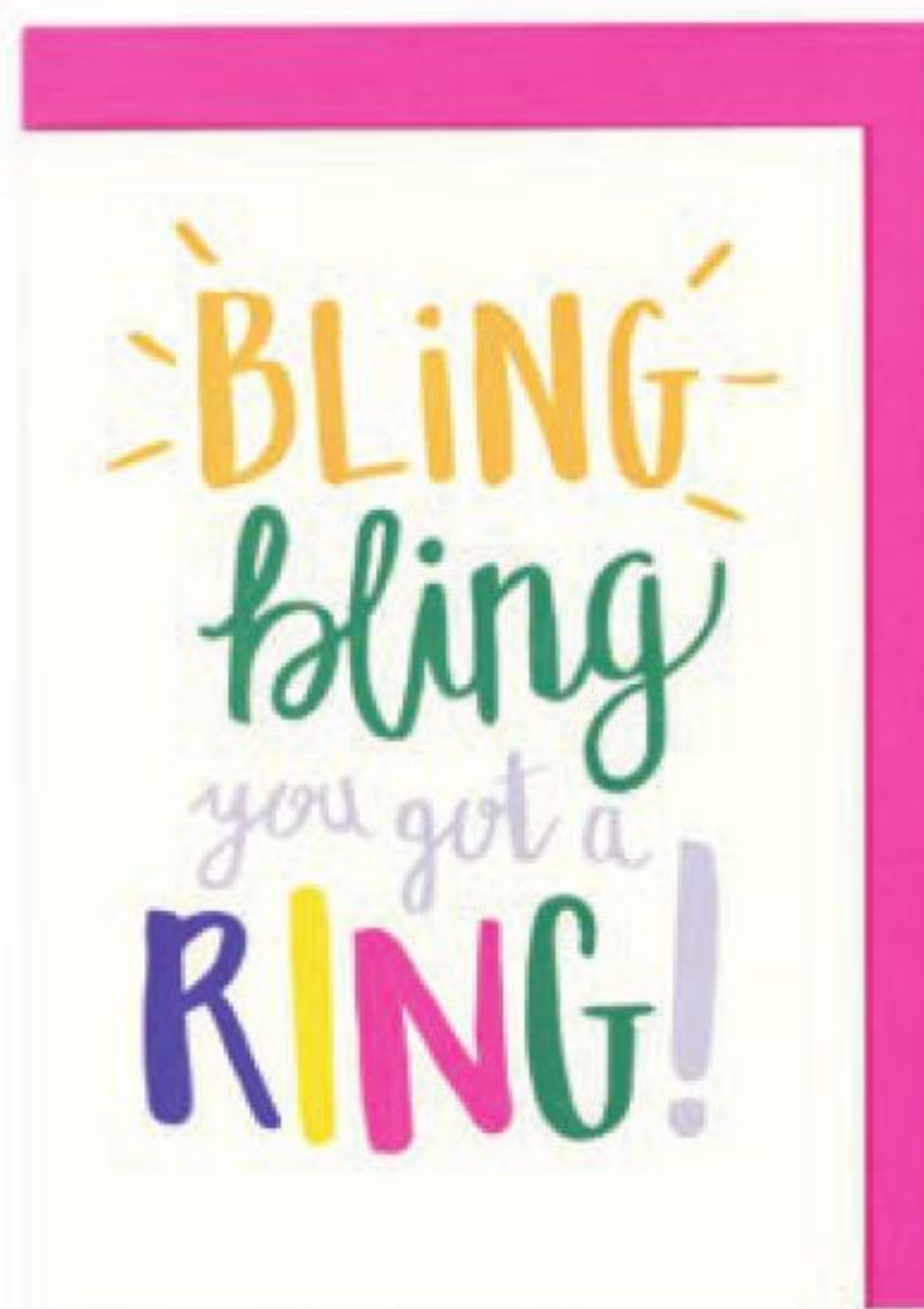
Emma also bakes vegan and gluten-free combinations, so no one has to miss out on wedding cake joy. Visit [bunssoffun.co.uk](http://bunssoffun.co.uk) for further details.



## STRICTLY SPARKLE

Get your dancing shoes ready, it's time to cut some serious shapes!

Norfolk-based Epic Event Hire's new white sparkling LED dancefloor is sure to add extra wow-factor to your first dance. The latest addition to the company's range of props and latest must-haves, it's a great way to light up the party, perfect for standout photos too. Visit [epiceventhire.co.uk](http://epiceventhire.co.uk)



## Congratulations!

We're excited by all the newly engaged couples and weddings to come in 2020 and what better way to celebrate than with a special card!

Norfolk-based Raspberry Blossom offers a wide range from illustrated engagement cards to big-day greetings to suit all kinds of weddings, all lovingly designed and printed in the UK. Visit [raspberryblossom.com](http://raspberryblossom.com)





Norfolk's  
*Creative*  
Wedding Fairs

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Originally a Georgian hunting lodge, the elegant white stucco building dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the privately owned hotel prides itself on offering a personal service. Great for food lovers, the Squires Restaurant provides a modern dining experience with a variety of menus to suit a range of tastes. You can have afternoon tea in the restaurant, in the Roxana Bar or, when the weather's fine, outside on the sun terrace overlooking the lush lawns and rose gardens. Not only a great place to stay, it's a stunning wedding venue too. While you're there why not check out the amazing spa and book in for some pre- or post-wedding R&R? To find out more visit [bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk](http://bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk) and for your chance to bag the Champagne afternoon tea for two, enter via our website.

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recipient can wait for their dream show. Theatre Tokens Gift Cards and eGifts can be bought and topped up on [theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)

County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with Theatre Tokens to offer readers the chance to win a £50 gift card. For your chance to win enter via our website.

What's more, we also have a wonderful discount for readers: 10% off Theatre Tokens. To get 10% off, order a Gift Card, an eGift or a Top Up before midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and quote COUNTYWEDDING online at [theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)



**YOU'RE A STANGLIAN.WEDDING**

Closing date is 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020 unless otherwise stated, terms and conditions apply.





# Wedding Shows

At County Wedding Events our aim is to help you find the perfect venue and suppliers for your wedding day.

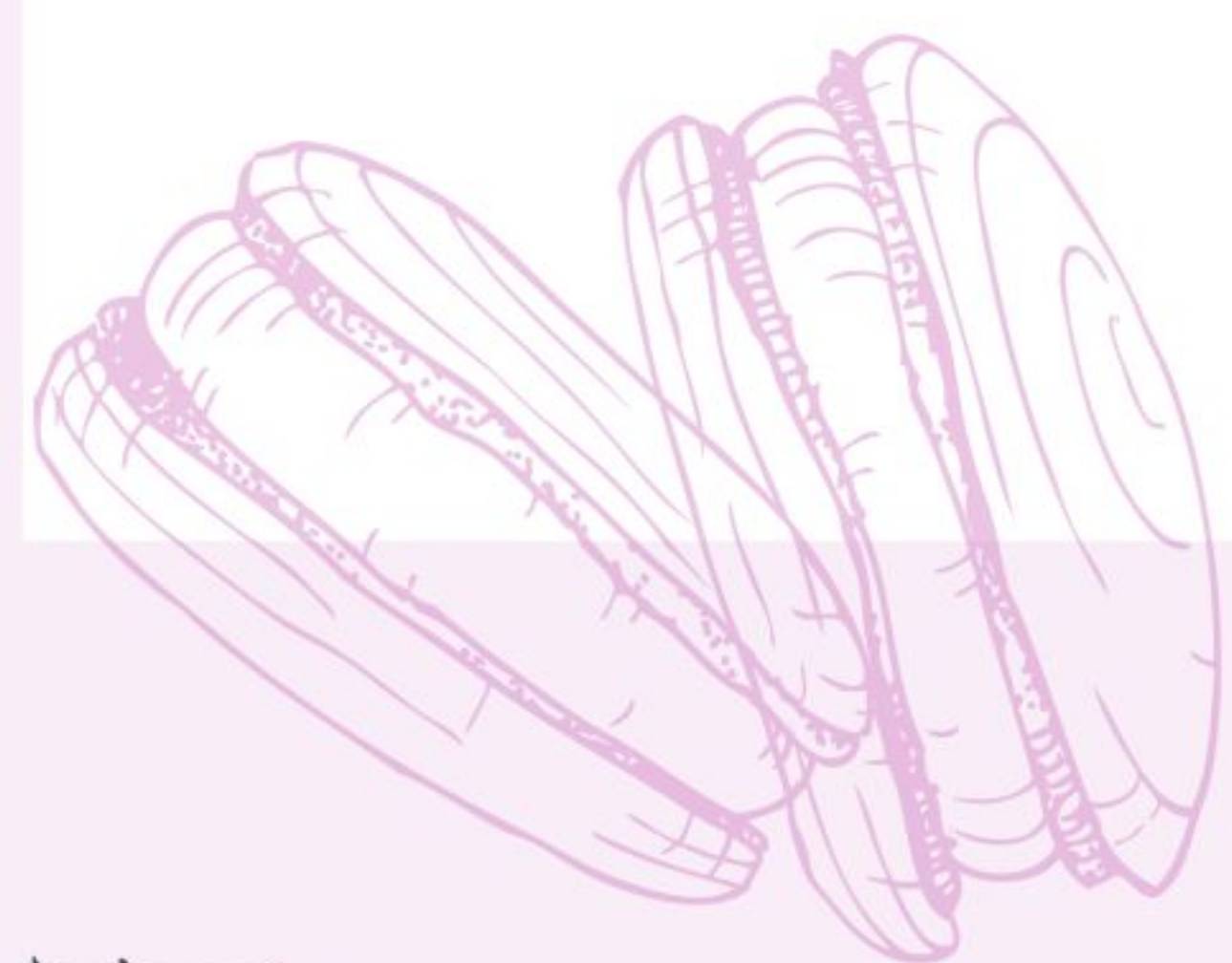
Each wedding show is hosted by a stunning venue and attended by a wide variety of quality exhibitors ready to offer help and advice in planning your day. All our events offer **free entry**, a complimentary **goody bag** with our latest **glossy magazine** as well as the opportunity to enter prize draw **competitions** and take advantage of **exclusive offers** and **discounts** on the day.

Our Signature events are held at prestigious exhibition venues and you can expect to see up to 200 wedding specialists exhibiting on the day. They are **the ultimate wedding shopping experience** and include fashion shows, demonstrations, entertainment, exclusive offers, competitions and much more!




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SUN 13 SEP | 11AM - 4PM



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# Spring Shows

ALL EVENTS 11AM – 3PM  
unless otherwise stated

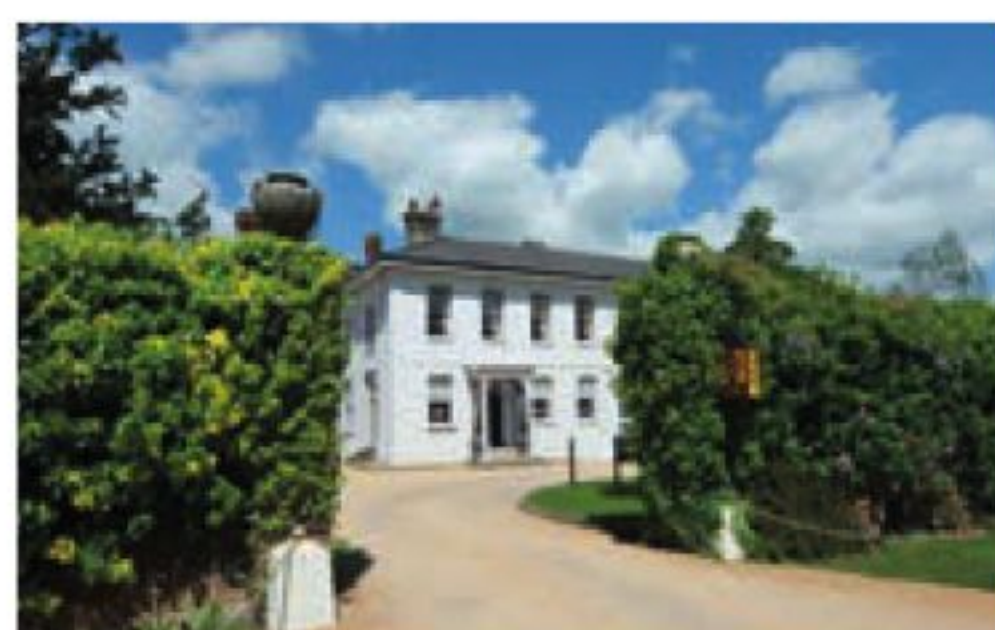


## EAST ANGLIA

RAVENWOOD HALL  
Bury St. Edmunds,  
Suffolk IP30 9JA  
SUN 29 MAR



BRESSINGHAM HALL  
& HIGH BARN,  
Norfolk, IP22 2AA  
SUN 19 APR



## ESSEX

GREENWOODS  
HOTEL & SPA,  
Ingatstone, CM4 9BE  
SUN 23 FEB



CRESSING TEMPLE  
Witham Road,  
Braintree CM77 8PD  
SUN 15 MAR



COLVILLE HALL  
Chelmsford Road,  
White Roding CM6 1RQ  
SUN 19 APR



STIFFORD HALL HOTEL  
High Road,  
Grays RM16 5UE  
SUN 12 JAN (12PM – 4PM)



## HERTS & BEDS

THE BARN AT ALSWICK  
Hare Street Road,  
Buntingford SA9 0AA  
SUN 5 APR (12 – 4PM)



## LONDON

DOUBLE TREE HILTON  
HOTEL AT EALING,  
London W5 3HN  
SUN 9 FEB



GUNNERSBURY PARK  
Gunnersbury Park,  
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SUN 8 MAR



## KENT

TUDOR PARK  
Ashford Road,  
Maidstone ME14 4NQ  
SUN 1 MAR



WEST HEATH  
Ashgrove Road,  
Sevenoaks TN13 1SR  
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Edenbridge TN8 7NP  
SUN 19 APR



## SURREY

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Godalming GU8 4AY  
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High Street,  
Horsham RH12 4PX  
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MICHELHAM PRIORY  
Michelham Priory,  
Hailsham BN27 3QS  
SUN 23 FEB



CASTLE GORING  
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Worthing BN13 3UN  
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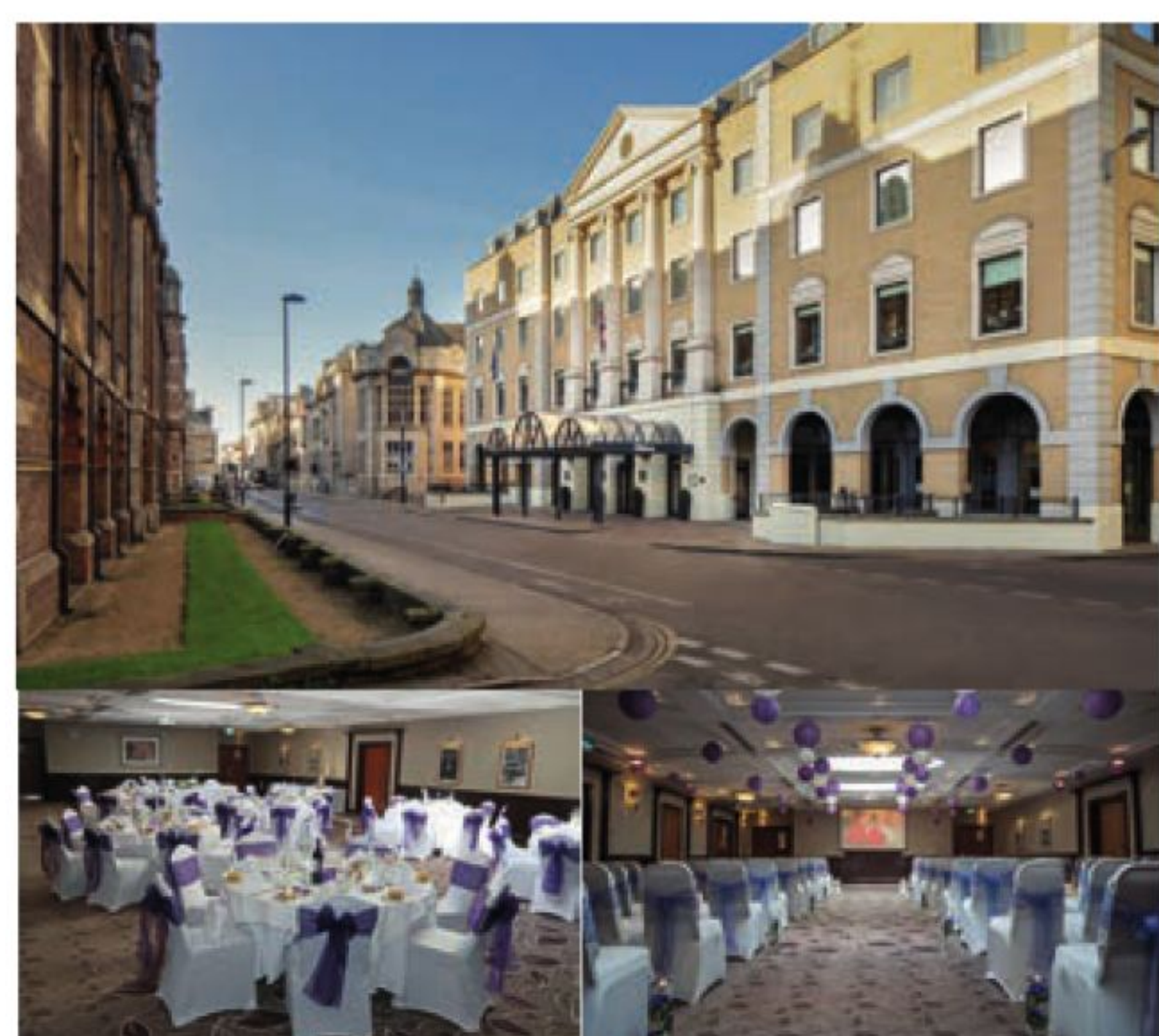
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# Spotlight on... NORWICH AND SOUTH NORFOLK

Where to wed in and around this historic cathedral city



**PARK FARM HOTEL, NR9 3DL**  
01603 810 264 | [parkfarm-hotel.co.uk](http://parkfarm-hotel.co.uk)

Set in 200 acres of Norfolk countryside, this inviting hotel has the charm of a rural retreat with all mod cons and the attractions of historic Norwich on the doorstep.

A mix of old and new, the original Georgian country house has undergone extensive renovation and redevelopment. Boasting 52 individually designed rooms, there's plenty of space for friends and family to stay over and relax and unwind or explore the city the next day.

Couples can tie the knot in the light and airy conservatory joined by 100 guests or the Ellingham Suite with up to 60 loved ones. Celebrate afterwards in the spacious and modern Colney Suite leading to the conservatory with its own bar and access to a private lawn. There's a host of other great features too, including the staircase in the Georgian house, the beautiful landscaped gardens, gazebo, fountain and a wealth of nooks and crannies for album-worthy photos.

*We love...* the on-site leisure facilities including an indoor swimming pool, gym, health, beauty and hair salon.







## NORWICH CASTLE, NR1 3JU

01603 222 934 | [celebrateinnorfolk.co.uk](http://celebrateinnorfolk.co.uk)

Be king and queen on your big day and tie the knot in an ancient castle.

Built by the Normans more than 900 years ago, Norwich Castle is one of the city's most famous and much-loved landmarks. With a multi-million-pound refurbishment programme underway, including restoration of the Keep, the



castle serves not only as a popular public museum, but a one-of-a-kind private space for your 'I dos'.

The Colman Gallery is home to many fine pieces from the Norwich School of Artists and can accommodate up to 75 guests for the ceremony. Post-vows you can pose on the bridge leading up to the castle and in the gardens, with panoramic views across Norwich; perfect for those all-important just-wed shots.

*Check out...* the city's wealth of hotels and venues nearby for the reception.



Images: [facebook.com/stevehuntphotographynorfolk](https://www.facebook.com/stevehuntphotographynorfolk)

## BARNHAM BROOM HOTEL, GOLF & SPA, NR9 4DD

01603 759 393 | [barnham-broom.co.uk](http://barnham-broom.co.uk)

Conveniently located, just 20 minutes from the bustling city this four-star hotel is a year-round haven for weddings, ideal for those looking to enjoy an extended celebration. With 46 bedrooms, including the sumptuous Hill and Valley Suites, a luxury spa to unwind pre- or post-wedding, a health club with swimming pool, two 18-hole golf courses, restaurants, exclusive bars and a wide range of great dining options, there's something for everyone!

The versatile venue caters for weddings of all sizes and styles

and has a range of flexible spaces, including the beautifully refurbished Barford Suite. With fabulous views, outdoor terraces, lawn and a private bar, you can host your whole day here from the 'I dos' to the last dance with up to 120 guests for the wedding breakfast and 200 for the evening reception. For larger celebrations a marquee can be set up next to the suite and the Barford lawn can be used for al fresco ceremonies too.

Other options include the first-floor Kimberley Suite, which boasts a full-length balcony overlooking the Norfolk countryside and for more intimate weddings, the Colton Suite is ideal.

*We love...* that the venue offers a range of varied wedding packages to suit all tastes.





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### DRAGON HALL, NR1 1QE

01603 877 177 | [nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/dragon-hall](http://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/dragon-hall)

The 15<sup>th</sup>-century Dragon Hall, home to the National Centre for Writing, is a magnificent timbered trading hall on King Street, right in the heart of Norwich.

Easily accessible from the city-centre hotels and train station, it's licensed for ceremonies and is available for exclusive use so you

can celebrate your whole day under one roof.

The oak-beamed Great Hall provides a stunning backdrop with room for up to 120 guests for the ceremony and 80 for dining. Afterwards, get out your dancing shoes and celebrate in the Foyle Gallery with its contemporary glass wall.

*We love...* the petty courtyard garden, great for photos in the summer.



### NUMBER 47, NR2 1JR

01603 621 827 | [number47norwich.co.uk](http://number47norwich.co.uk)

Number 47 is a historic treasure located on St Giles Street in the heart of Norwich. Step inside the impressive Grade II listed Georgian building to discover a range of versatile spaces, each with its own distinctive character and charm.

With three rooms licensed for ceremonies you can take your pick to suit the style and scale of your wedding. With its high ceilings and chandeliers the grand Bishop Bowers Temple has a wonderfully opulent feel and can seat up to 110 guests to watch you say 'I do'. The Le Strange Temple is a more historical setting, suitable for up to 20 ceremony guests or you can tie the knot in the Garden Room

with 30 of your nearest and dearest. The light and airy space looks out over the pretty courtyard garden, a private landscaped area with wooden tables and seating; ideal for the wedding photos, a barbecue or buffet reception.

For larger gatherings, the Mancroft Suite is an impressive banqueting room complete with bar and dancefloor, suitable for up to 110 seated guests or 140 for a buffet style meal. The first-floor Lorraine Suite caters for more intimate wedding breakfasts with up to 32 seated guests or 50 for a buffet. You could even hire the whole house and enjoy access to all areas.

*We love...* that the in-house catering offers bespoke menus designed to suit budgets, large or small.



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# Happily ever after

Fairytale venues with a story to tell

## Hales Hall & The Great Barn, Loddon

07740 081 994 | [haleshall.com](http://haleshall.com)

If a historic barn with a vaulted thatched roof and exposed timbers are part of your ideal wedding story; read on! Hales Hall has all this and more, the magnificent Medieval estate is set in the heart of the Norfolk countryside surrounded by breathtaking formal gardens and wild meadows providing a magical setting for your whole celebration. You can marry in The Great Barn joined by up to 180 seated guests for the ceremony and wedding breakfast. The largest surviving brick-built barn of its kind in the country, it can host 300 or more for the evening reception. The upstairs Gallery provides a lovely cosy space; great as a chill-out area, complete with comfy sofas, fairy lights and additional seating. It can also be used for intimate ceremonies or for the legal part before or after an al fresco service on the front lawn. The grounds provide a wealth of fabulous photo opportunities, complete with a moated area and fountain, topiary and floral avenue. Friends and family can relax on the sun-kissed terrace, there's a pergola and outdoor seating and the lush lawns are ideal for drinks and garden games post-vows.



For those looking to extend the celebration, the venue can accommodate 25 or more guests across the estate. The hall itself provides a welcoming retreat and can be your very own mansion for the duration. All the rooms are furnished with antiques and with open fires it offers the warmest of welcomes.

*We love...* the barn's 180 loop-hole windows; magical lit with flickering candles.

## Holmewood Hall, Holme

01487 829 555 | [holmewood-hall.co.uk](http://holmewood-hall.co.uk)

Nestled in a quaint Fenland village, there's plenty to capture the imagination at this impressive venue. Surrounded by 10 acres of grounds including a lake with a water fountain, a manicured croquet lawn and woodland, it's a photographer's dream.

There's a whole host of great backdrops inside the manor house too. Full of character, the Great Hall never fails to impress with its original wood panelling and turning staircase. Step through the double doors at the top on to the rear balcony and you can pose for just-wed shots while looking down on your guests below. The Library has its own quirky window seat with dual aspect windows overlooking the grounds and every reception room exudes its own homely style.

Flooded with natural light, the Gold Room can seat 77 for the ceremony or you can marry in the Dining Room, overlooking the lake with up to 80 loved ones. Every wedding enjoys exclusive use of the house and grounds including the Library, Study, Champagne Bar, Garden Bar and The Vault. You and your family and friends can take over the whole place and host an evening reception for as many



[lavenhamphotographic.co.uk](http://lavenhamphotographic.co.uk)

as 350 of your family and friends. There are 16 luxurious bedroom suites available for the night of the wedding including the breathtaking Renaissance Honeymoon Suite which has to be seen to be believed!

*We love...* the floodlit bandstand for romantic outdoor ceremonies.





## Seckford Hall Hotel & Spa, Woodbridge

01394 385 678 | [seckford.co.uk](http://seckford.co.uk)

Seckford Hall has all the credentials for a storybook wedding – an ivy-clad Tudor red-brick building, 34 acres of grounds and mature woodland, sweeping lawns, a private lake, beautiful walled garden and more. All you need is your Prince Charming and a happy ever after.

The 16<sup>th</sup>-century listed country house offers the ideal mix of comfort and luxury steeped in Tudor history. The Great Hall oozes character and charm with its oak panelling, high ceilings, huge open fireplace and fabulous views. Overlooking the lake and gardens, you can tie the knot here and host a reception for 180 guests or up to 250 teamed with

the beautiful marquee dining space in the adjacent garden pavilion. The hall has a separate entrance from the hotel as well as its own bar, toilets and cloakroom, so you and your loved ones can celebrate in style, comfort and privacy.

For more intimate weddings, the Mulberry provides a peaceful picturesque haven complete with sweeping panoramic view of the lawns and doors opening out on to the walled garden. If you're dreaming of an outdoor ceremony, the licensed Victorian-style bandstand is a wonderfully romantic spot. The venue has 32 bedrooms, so you and your guests can stay over to explore the local attractions the next day and for those that want to linger longer, the sumptuous suites in the courtyard are ideal.

*We love...* the tranquil spa set within the estate for pre- or post-wedding pampering.

## Thurning Hall, Thurning

01263 587 384 | [thurninghall.co.uk](http://thurninghall.co.uk)

If you're on the hunt for a grand old house in the country for your big day, look no further. Thurning Hall is a beautiful 18<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian mansion and privately owned family home full of warmth and original character, set in more than 30 acres of grounds. Think classical elegance meets boho spirit, with an eclectic mix of nooks and crannies and elegant spaces brimming with history.

Outside discover a magical mix of wonderfully whimsical and romantic informal secret walled rose gardens, woodland and grass parkland leading to a small lake; a treasure trove of great photo opportunities. With two Victorian walled gardens as well, the first provides an idyllic setting for al fresco ceremonies, while the second and largest is ideal for creative marquee receptions.

Inside the historic house, the period interior includes three large authentic reception rooms with the south-facing Drawing Room at the heart offering a breathtaking space for your 'I dos' watched by up to 50 guests. Post-vows you can exit in style through the original French doors overlooking the wide open Norfolk landscape. Receptions are held outside in the gardens, in a marquee, stretch tent or tipi with anything from 120 to 200 loved ones. The dry-hire policy means you can create your own wedding wonderland and style your celebration, your way for a truly one-of-a-kind affair; the only limit is your imagination.

*We love...* the ever-changing seasonal gardens and Gothic period features for stunning big-day photos.



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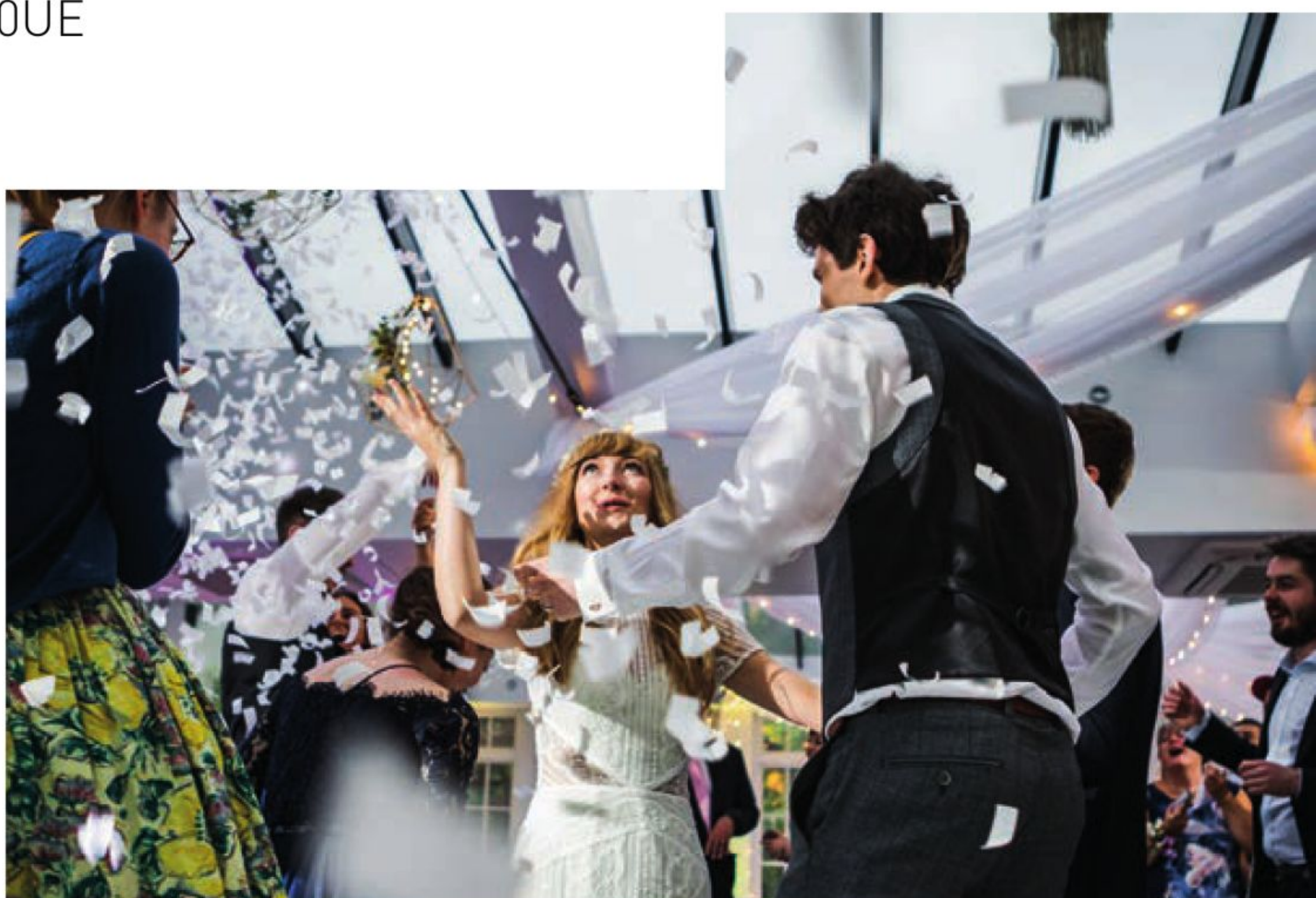
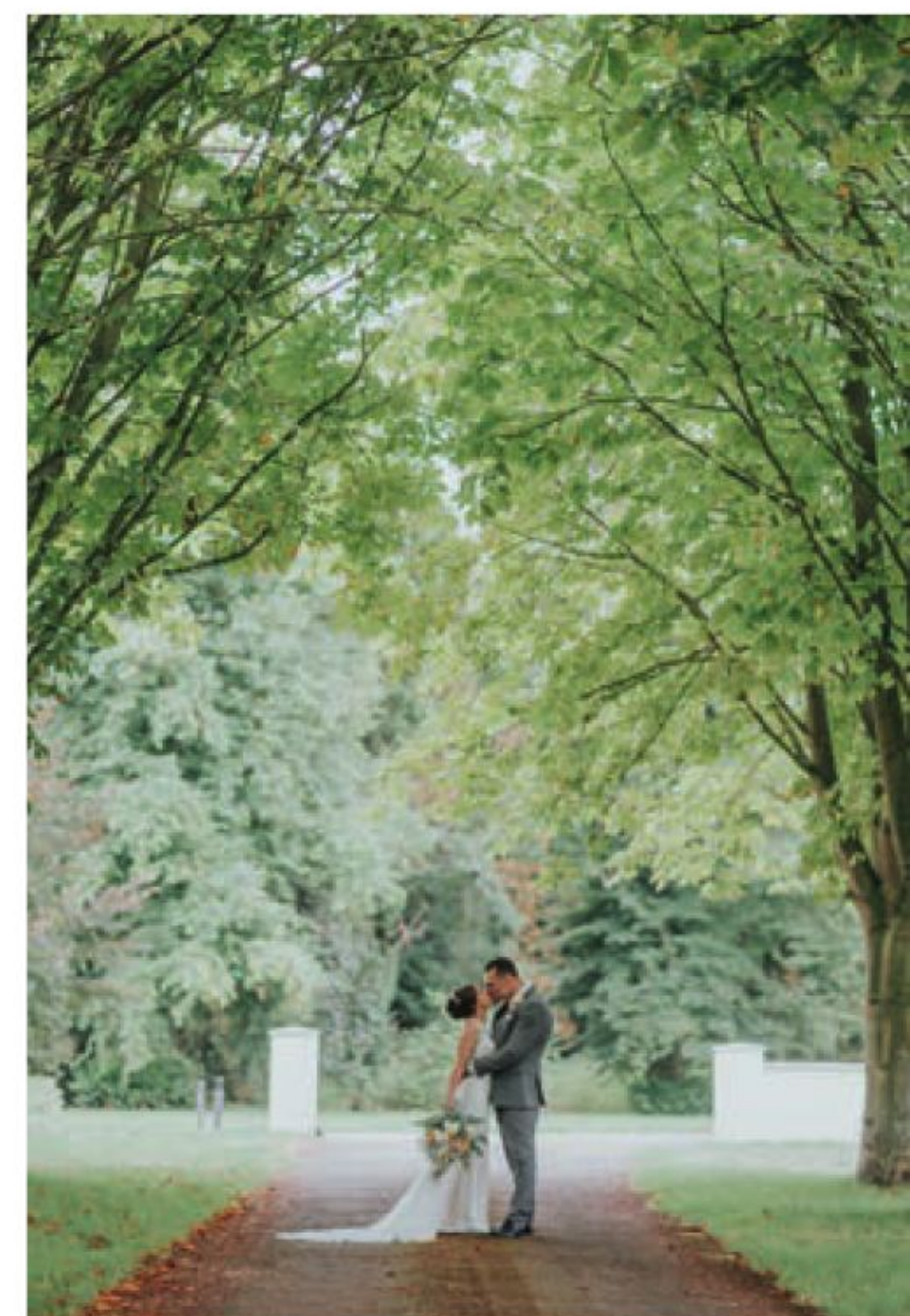
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## Swynford Manor, Six Mile Bottom

01638 592 609 | [swynfordmanor.com](http://swynfordmanor.com)

Swynford Manor is a luxurious country house wedding venue offering a fusion of contemporary style and rural charm. Arrive down the gravel drive with plush lawns either side to catch your first glimpse of the distinctive timber-framed building. Step inside and the magic continues with a gleaming monochrome chequerboard floor in the hall and a huge crystal chandelier above the grand staircase; perfect for making a fairytale entrance. The rest of the rooms are dressed to match the chic black and white colour scheme with tactile touches including velvet wingback chairs and lush curtains.



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Surrounded by seven acres of green lawns and paddocks, all neatly framed by trees, you can be sure of privacy on your big day. There's a choice of stylish spaces for your 'I dos', not least the Garden Room with its stylish décor, beams and sumptuous furnishings. You can exchange vows and after the drinks reception, sit down for a wedding breakfast for 150 people. The versatile space has a dazzling chequerboard dancefloor and room for a live band or DJ. You can host an evening reception for up to 220 people and party the night away, sip drinks at the adjoining bar or head off to the study for a little downtime or a fun-filled cocktail masterclass. The possibilities are endless!

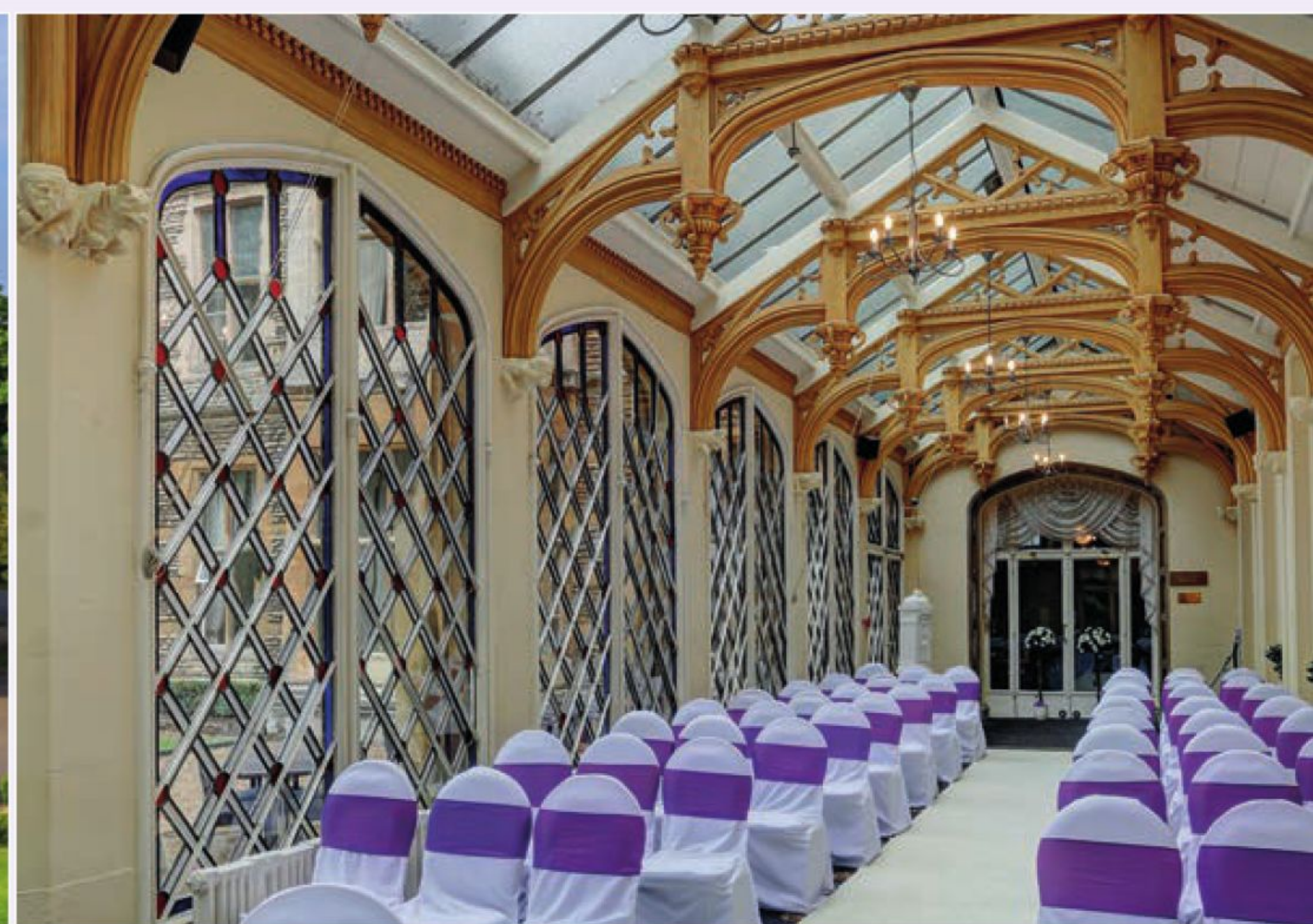
*We love...* the pretty pergola; perfect for al fresco ceremonies with up to 150 of your nearest and dearest looking on from the outdoor seating area.



## Orton Hall Hotel & Spa, Orton Longueville

01733 391 111 | [abacushotels.co.uk/orton-hall-hotel-and-spa](http://abacushotels.co.uk/orton-hall-hotel-and-spa)

Steeped in history Orton Hall Hotel offers an impressive big-day backdrop. Surrounded by mature parkland, the hotel combines impressive architecture and elegant rooms with fine food and great service. A treasure trove of photo opportunities, you'll be spoilt for choice for where to pose. Whether you want a traditional setting for



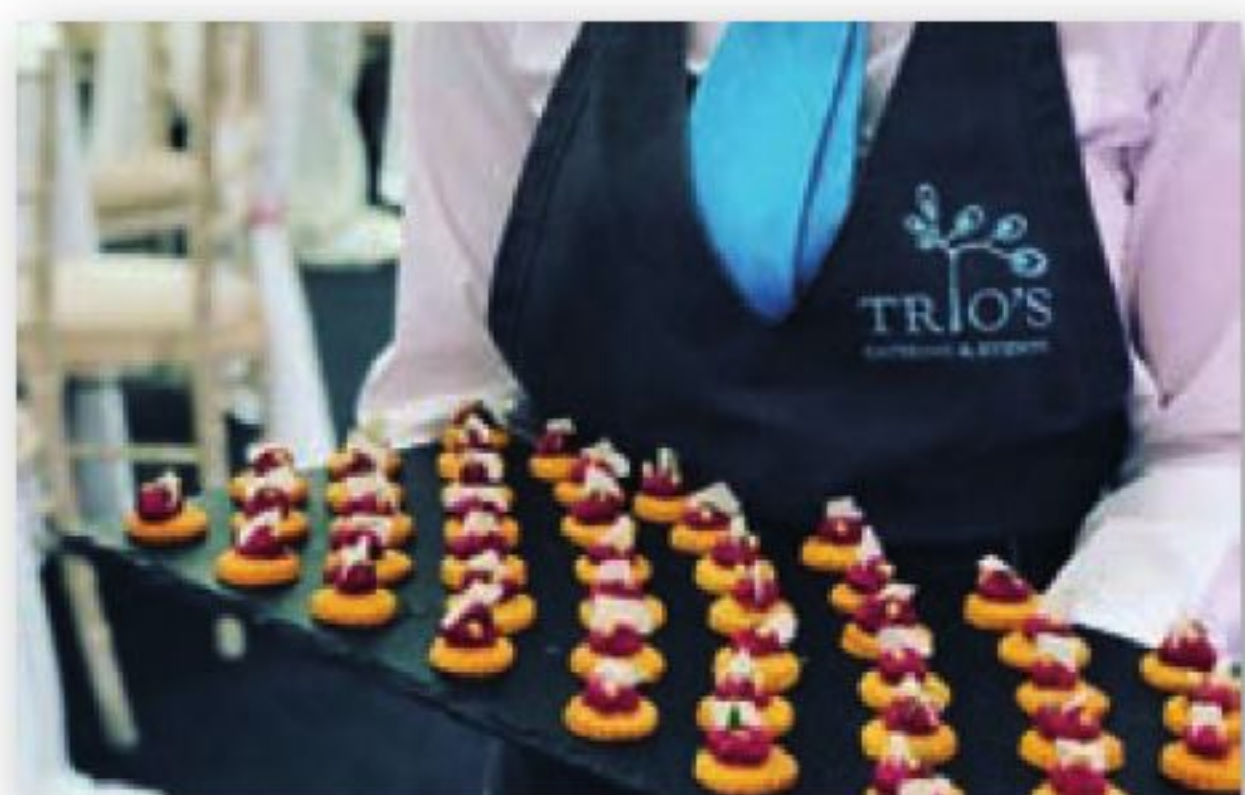
your wedding or something more modern, there's something to suit a range of tastes.

The majestic Great Room has impressive high ceilings and breathtaking views; perfect for the ceremony followed by a traditional sit-down wedding breakfast. For a more contemporary feel, the Orton Suite is also licensed for ceremonies and can host larger gatherings with up to 140 guests. If it's a relaxed, cosy feel you're after, the venue caters for that too. The Huntly Restaurant has intricately carved wood panelling and a lovely warm atmosphere for an intimate reception.

*We love...* the Conservatory with its stained glass windows and sweeping parkland views; perfect for a magical ceremony.



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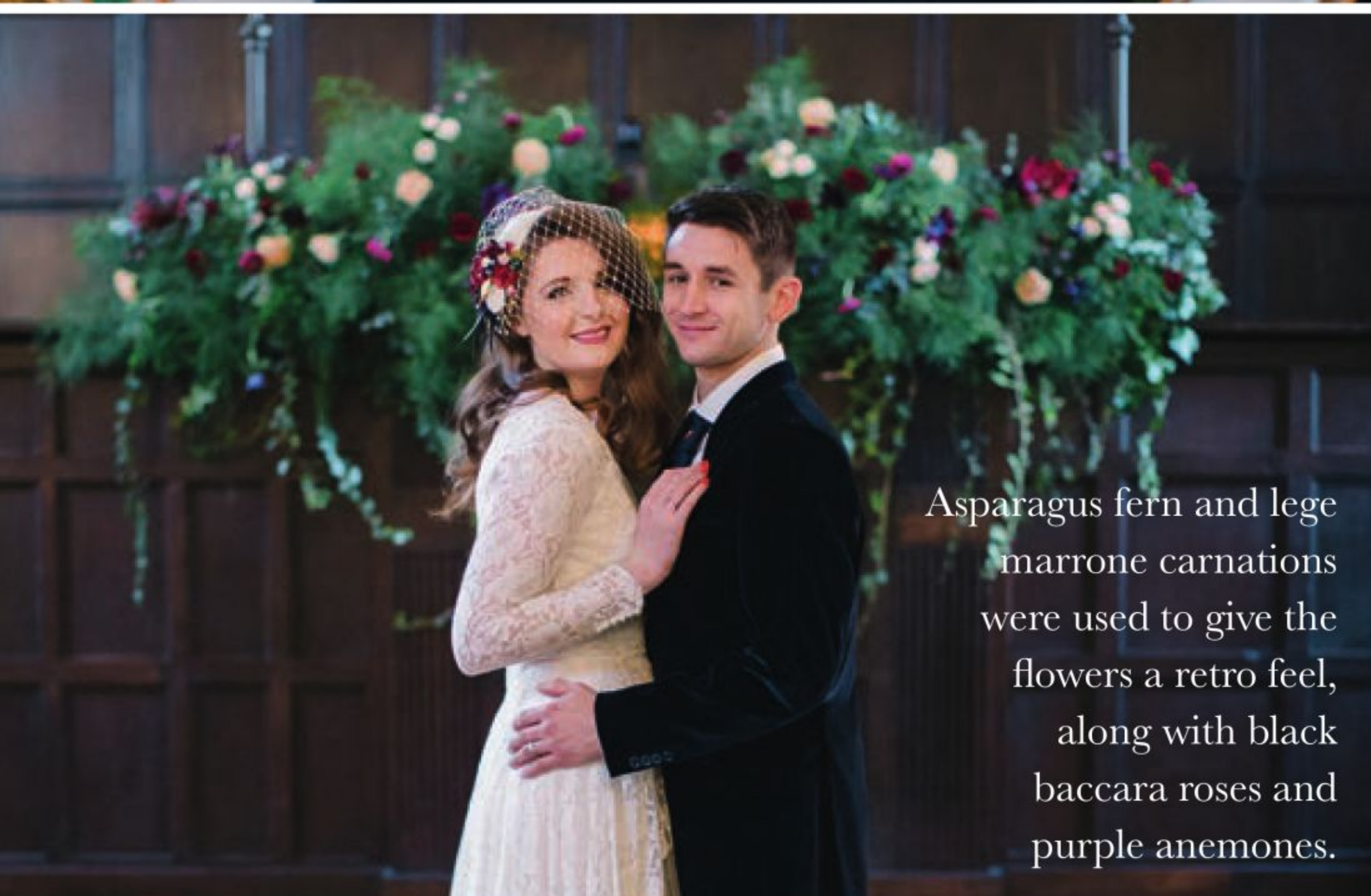
# Midwinter MAGIC

History and lush warm tones  
combine to create wedding  
wow-factor with timeless appeal

*Images courtesy of  
Vicky Plum Photography*

**B**ury St Edmunds Guildhall provided the perfect backdrop for this styled shoot. Licensed for weddings, the lottery-funded English Heritage building is a historic venue full of character and charm. Drawing inspiration from its fascinating past, a team of local creatives got together to reflect its 800-year heritage. Famous as the centre for the Royal Observer Corps during World War II, the midwinter wedding theme included elegant vintage touches in a nod to the 1940's era.

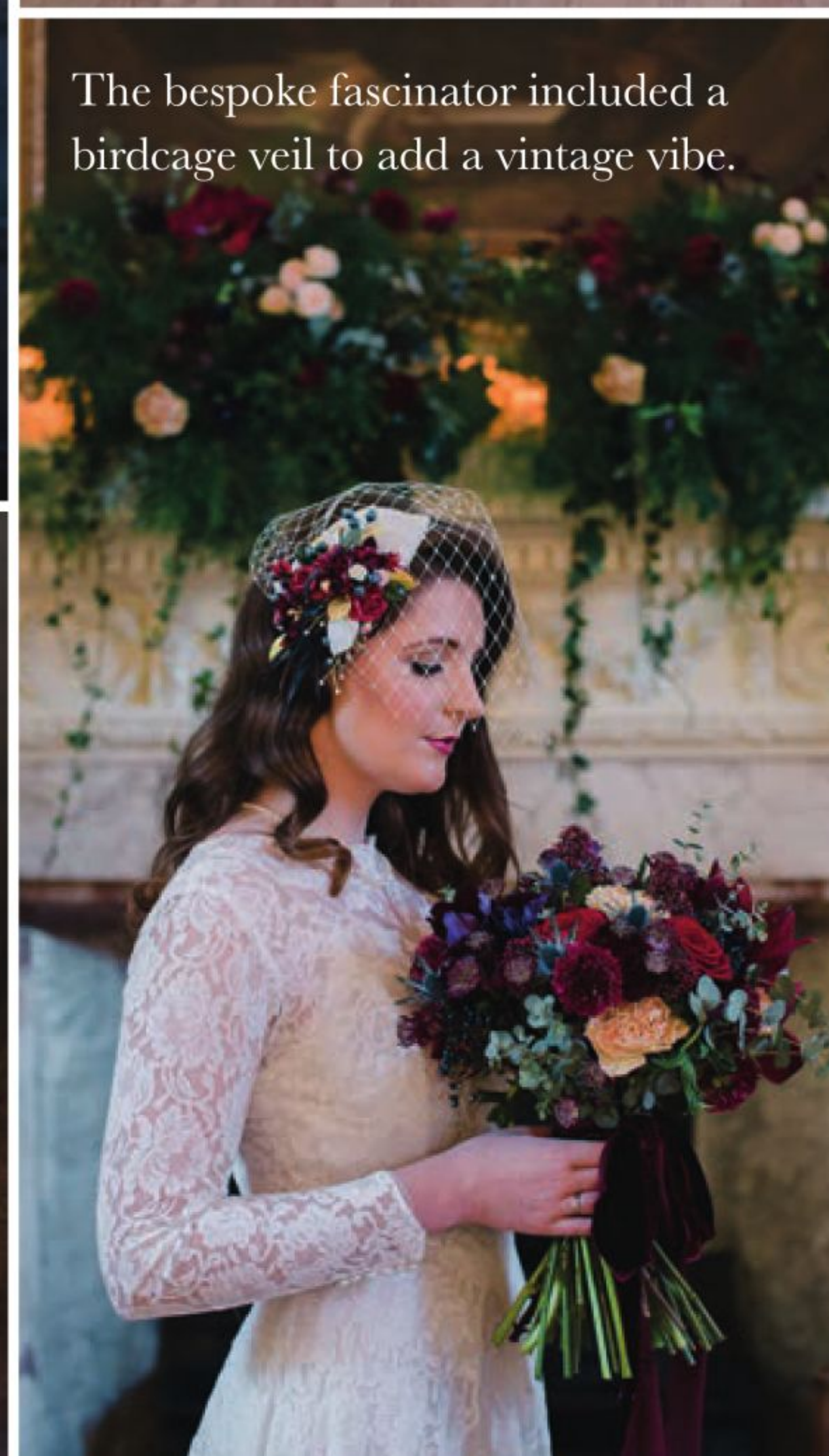




Asparagus fern and leger marrone carnations were used to give the flowers a retro feel, along with black baccara roses and purple anemones.



White lace full-length vintage *Amelia* dress.



The bespoke fascinator included a birdcage veil to add a vintage vibe.



## THE LINE-UP

**Photography**, [vickypalum.com](http://vickypalum.com); **Venue**, [burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk](http://burystedmundsguildhall.org.uk); **Dress**, [cambridgevintagebridal.co.uk](http://cambridgevintagebridal.co.uk); **Florist**, [roseandrhubarb.com](http://roseandrhubarb.com); **Hair**, [facebook.com/staciegoodwinhairdressing](http://facebook.com/staciegoodwinhairdressing); **Make-up**, [makeupbyrosied.com](http://makeupbyrosied.com); **Suit**, [dapperfox.co.uk](http://dapperfox.co.uk); **Fascinator**, [instagram.com/missmillimolli](http://instagram.com/missmillimolli); **Cake**, [instagram.com/ladybakewellcakes](http://instagram.com/ladybakewellcakes); **Props and vintage china**, [serendipitystreet.co.uk](http://serendipitystreet.co.uk); **Stationery**, [silkandinkdesigns.co.uk](http://silkandinkdesigns.co.uk); **Models**, Frances ([instagram.com/francesfancies](http://instagram.com/francesfancies)) and Reed Bailey



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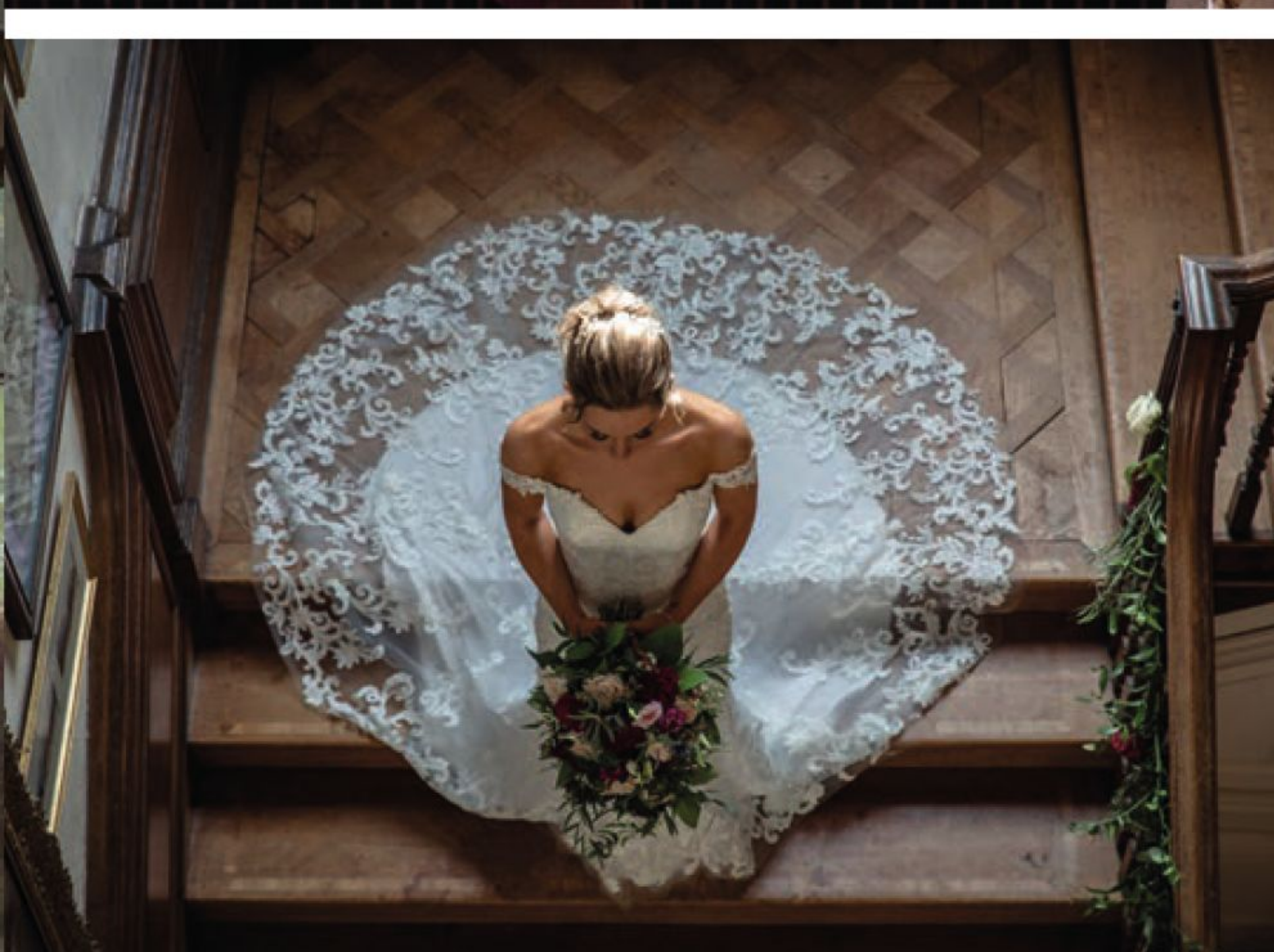






Aimee and James Jagger tied the knot at St Andrew's Church in Little Glemham, Suffolk followed by a reception at the nearby Glemham Hall on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.





# ROSES ARE RED

Aimee and James' rustic wedding featured beautiful blooms and a nod to his Scottish roots  
*Images courtesy of Ayshea Goldberg Photography*

Working together turned out to be a prescription for love for Aimee and James. They met at the pharmacy where James was training to be a pharmacist and Aimee was a dispenser. They were colleagues for a year and kept in touch as friends afterwards until romance blossomed a couple of years later.

When it came to popping the question, James organised a trip to New York for the two of them and planned to pick the time and place while they were there. "I guess he must've been either too excited, or nervous, as he asked me on the first night," recalls Aimee. "We had our first view of the city at the Top of the Rock, then went ice skating at the Wollman Rink in Central Park and on the way back to the hotel, he got down on one knee while we were crossing the Gapstow Bridge." She said 'yes', of course!

## THE TIME AND PLACE

They opted for a rustic wedding theme with a burgundy, blush and ivory colour scheme, including flashes of gold and a nod to James' Scottish heritage. Glemham Hall ticked all the boxes for their celebration. "We checked it out online and it looked amazing and there's a lovely little church on the edge of the estate only a five-minute walk away which was perfect for our intimate ceremony," explains Aimee. They fell in love with the venue as soon as they saw it. "The hall and the gardens were amazing and after meeting the event planner Donna, who was so friendly and accommodating, we knew it was the right place for our dream wedding. Also, after seeing the grand staircase, we were able to picture the fairytale entrance we wanted, in front of all our guests after the ceremony."

## LOOKING THE PART

After trying on numerous wedding gowns, Aimee knew she wanted a mermaid, off-the-shoulder style and fell for the Morilee designer range instantly. "I loved my dress as it had detachable sleeves and a 3D lace pattern which added a gorgeous effect. To set it off I bought a dazzling pair of Jon Richard earrings from Debenhams and a bracelet to match."





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James wore a MacIntyre tartan kilt with a Prince Charlie evening jacket, waistcoat and the sporran his father had for his own wedding. His brother wore a matching outfit, while his dad and the best man had Robertson tartan kilts. The bridesmaids' long, multiway dresses also complemented the colour scheme perfectly and they carried beautiful bouquets filled with foliage, blue viburnum berries, thistle and heather to create a vintage and Scottish feel.

"Bagpiper Ray Russell played as I walked from the car to the church and afterwards as he lead our guests to the hall. He's a former piper at the Edinburgh Tattoo and it was amazing to have him there to really tie in the Scottish side of the wedding," says Aimee,

THE PERSONAL TOUCHES

The flowers were a major part of the venue décor. "I love roses so I asked our florist Charlotte to incorporate them in the displays," explains Aimee. "She picked some gorgeous blush Westminister roses, as well as ivory and burgundy ones, alongside different flowers and foliage to make the displays look rustic and to match the autumn season beautifully." Thistle and heather were added to the personal flowers to give an extra Scottish touch to the day.

"We had tall standing open gold stands, and then short gold chalice vases to create a different height effect for the tables in the marquee. We also had a long arrangement on our top table in keeping with our colour scheme and floral theme.

"We named the tables after our favourite sights in New York. We chose tablet for the favours as it's a Scottish sweet, which James introduced me to on our trips to Scotland and we tied the packages with a tartan ribbon to match his kilt.

"In the hall Charlotte did an amazing job of decorating the staircase using hanging foliage, trailing red amaranthus and ivory and burgundy roses. The gold hoops she made incorporating our wedding flowers were some of my favourites," Aimee adds.





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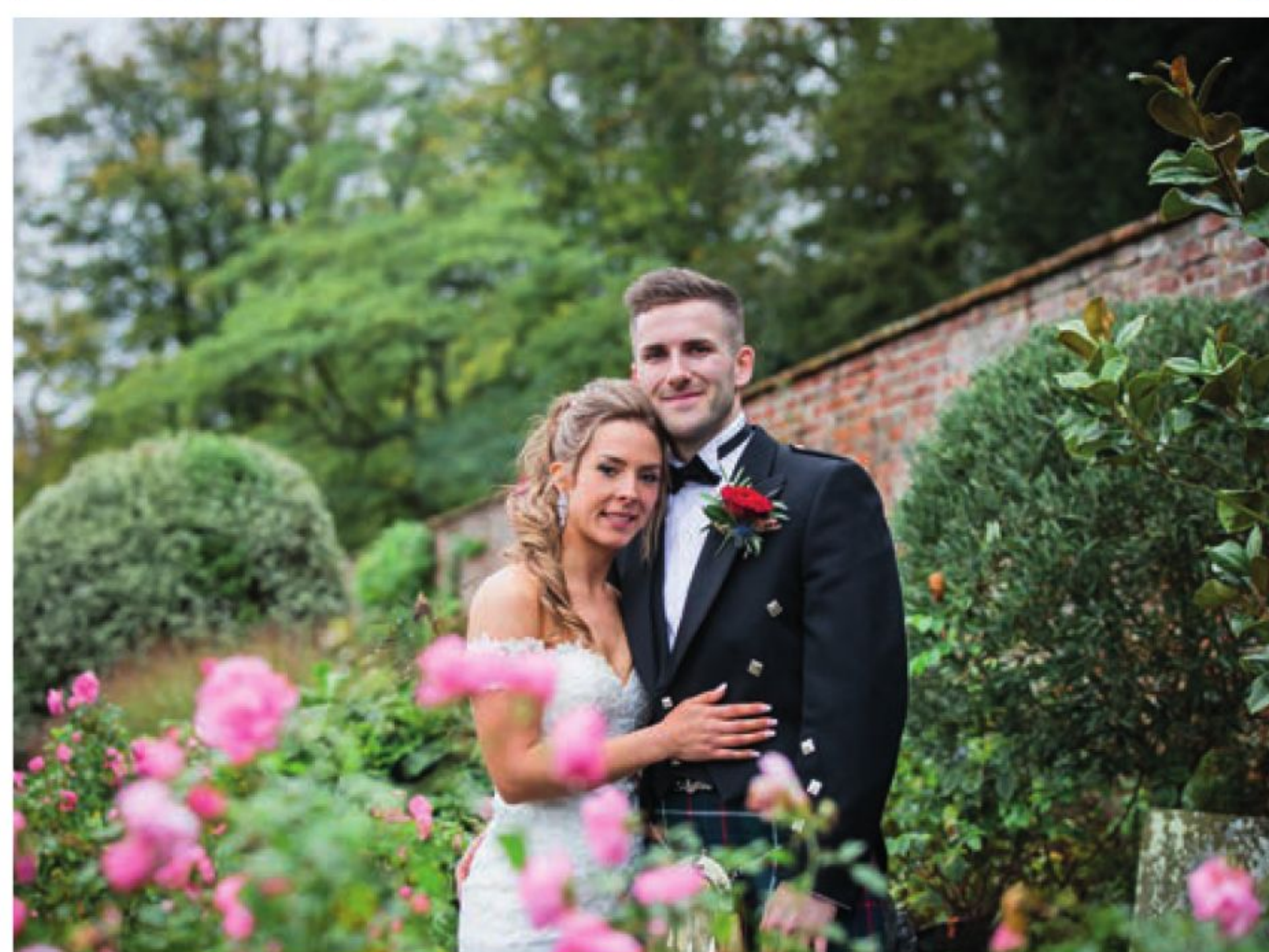


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## AIMEE AND JAMES' LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Photography** | Ayshea Goldberg Photography | [aig-photography.co.uk](http://aig-photography.co.uk)  
**Ceremony venue** | St Andrew's Church, Little Glemham | [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)  
**Reception venue** | Glemham Hall | [glemhamhall.co.uk](http://glemhamhall.co.uk)  
**Bride's dress** | Catrina's Bridalwear | [catrinasbridal.co.uk](http://catrinasbridal.co.uk)  
**Accessories** | Debenhams | [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)  
**Hair and make-up** | Rosie's Beauticians | [rosie-beautician.co.uk](http://rosie-beautician.co.uk)  
**Bridesmaids' dresses** | Krisp Clothing | [krisp.co.uk](http://krisp.co.uk)  
**Groom's kilt** | Geoffrey (Tailor) | [geoffreykilts.co.uk](http://geoffreykilts.co.uk)  
**Cake** | Marks & Spencer | [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)  
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**Chair sashes and table runners** | Epic Event Hire | [epiceventhire.co.uk](http://epiceventhire.co.uk)  
**Favours** | The Tartan Tablet Company | [tartantablet.com](http://tartantablet.com)  
**Organist and pianist** | Hannah Pemberton | [hannahpemberton@outlook.com](mailto:hannahpemberton@outlook.com)



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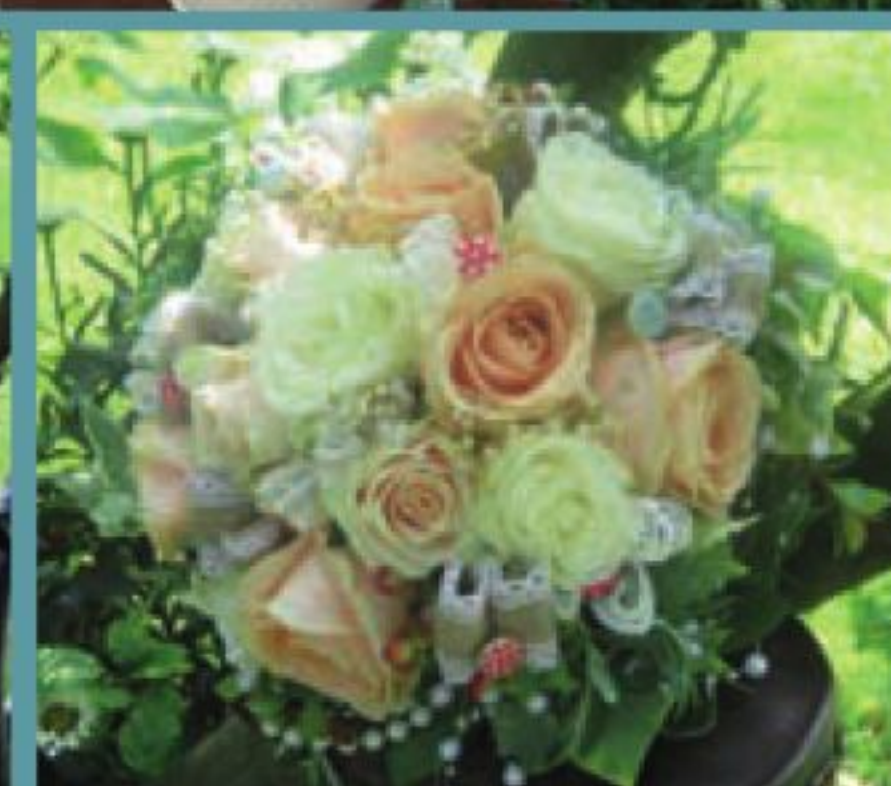
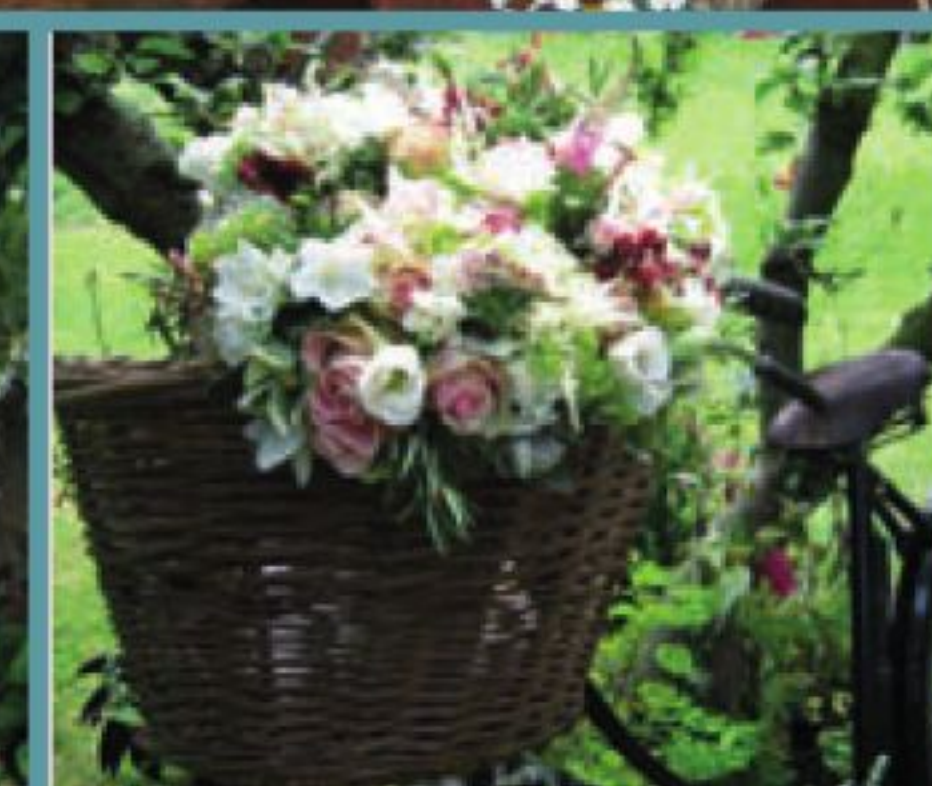
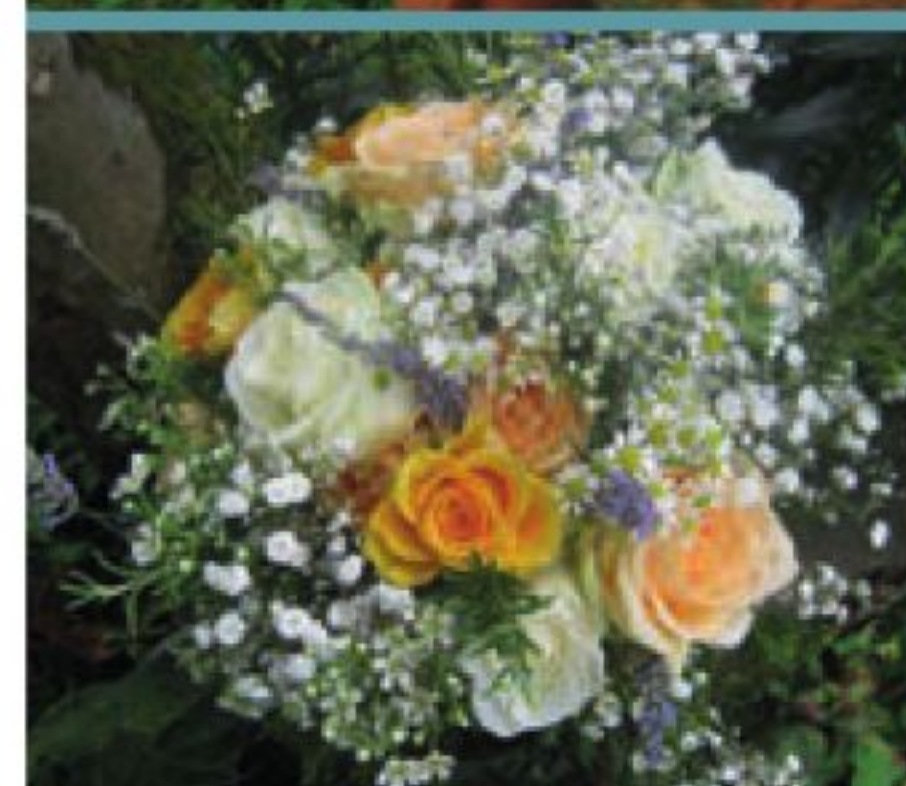
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# PARTY ON

Andrew and Shane pulled out all the stops for their  
showstopping big day

*Images courtesy of Simon Watson Photography*

Andrew Woodcock and Shane  
Didwell were married at Oxnead Hall  
in Norfolk on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.



Andrew and Shane first caught each others eye on the dancefloor of a local nightclub in Norwich. Shane bought Andrew a drink and the spark was lit. "During the first few months getting to know Shane it was like I'd finally found my soulmate, that person that just gets you," says Andrew.

They were together for two-and-a-half years before Shane popped the question at their first joint pre-Christmas family get-together. True to his charismatic nature, it was no ordinary affair! Andrew's mum distracted him upstairs while all the relatives gathered in the garden. He was then led outside to discover them all waiting, complete with twinkling candles and fairy lights and an acoustic guitarist playing Secret Love Song by Little Mix. His friends then started to arrive, two at a time through the garage door leading into the garden, all holding light bottles, white roses (the couple's favourite flowers) and personal message scrolls. They were followed by Andrew's mum and dad, who joined the procession together and had a scroll to read out too. "At this point everyone was in tears and I still wasn't sure what was happening," Andrew recalls. Until, that is, Shane made his appearance dressed in a white tuxedo and got down on one knee. "I said 'yes' of course, everyone cheered, fireworks were set off, the guitarist struck up and the party continued through the night. It was the most magical proposal ever and I loved every moment!" adds Andrew. Read on for his account of their big day...

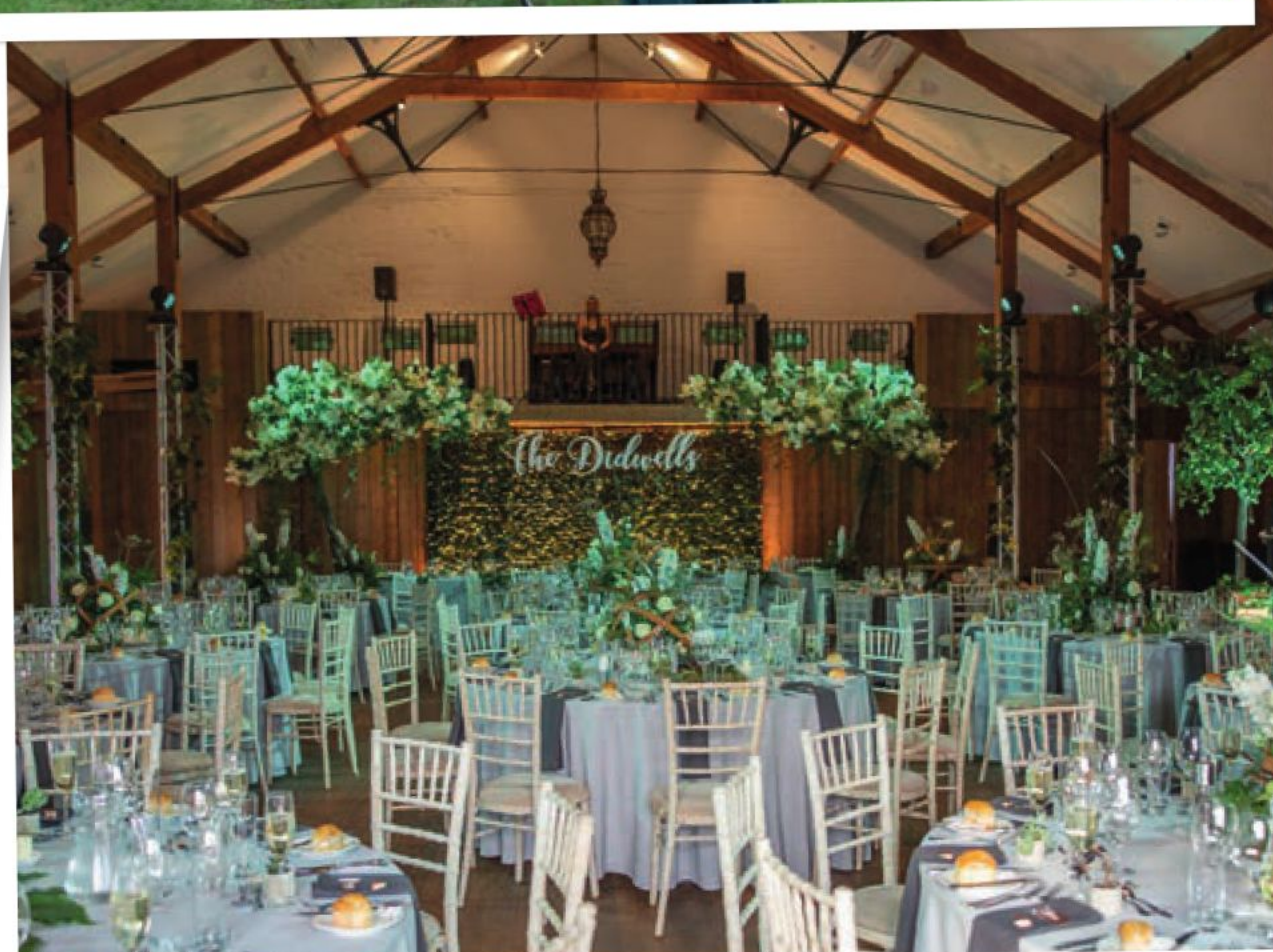


*The bouquets were natural looking with white roses, asparagus fern and other grassy type plants.*

*Oxnead Hall was the first of five venues we intended to visit, but as soon as we saw it we knew it was perfect for our wedding so we booked it there and then.*



*We wanted to wear something a little different so we went for fitted tuxedos with scoop waistcoats and white shirts and Shane had a peacock feather bow tie.*



*We had an opera singer perform from the balcony as our guests sat down for the wedding breakfast. She sang classics as well as some more modern requests and it set the scene perfectly.*





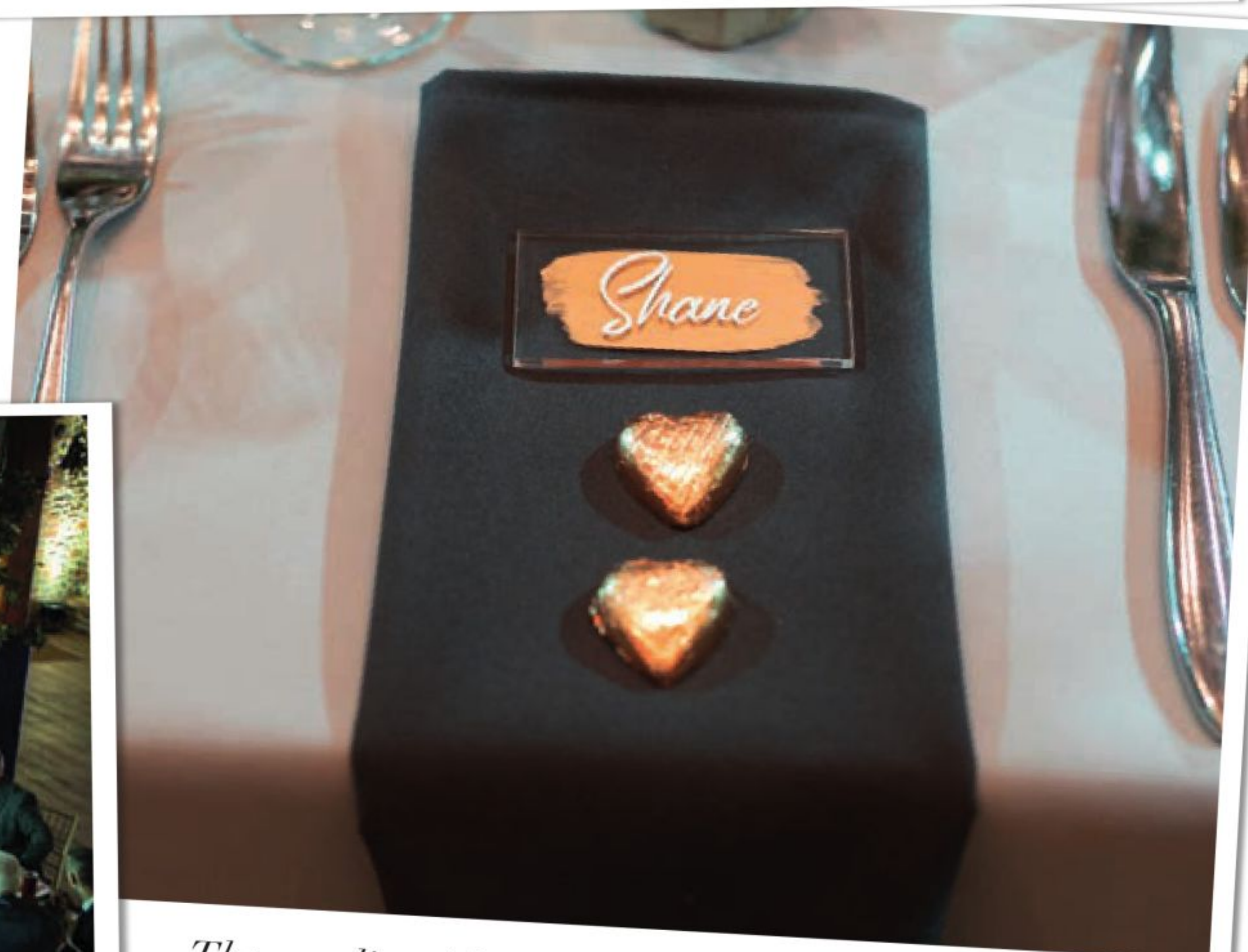
*We opted for a post-apocalyptic theme with an industrial edge to create a look as if nothing had been touched for years, with overgrown flowers, rusty metals and trailing floral displays.*



*The cake was insane! A six-tier copper and concrete-inspired creation; it was absolutely stunning, a real showstopper!*



*The centrepieces were rusty orbs filled with moss, flowers and white roses along with dead plants, stones, old bottles, concrete and other materials to complement our theme.*



*The acrylic table and place names had a copper paint smear on the back to go with the apocalyptic look.*



*We made concrete pots ourselves and filled them with plants as favours for our guests; 10 for every table and each one was different.*

*The table plan was made from a plastic board with copper paint smeared over the back and covered in foliage for a messy effect.*





*We choreographed three dance routines; the first to Little Mix's Secret Love Song for just us, the second was a jazzy number and included Shane's brother James and the third involved nine of our bridesmaids performing to Crazy in Love by Beyoncé with me rapping the Jay-Z section and Shane dressing up as the pop superstar herself in seven-inch heels, wig and outfit to dance alongside me – it was incredible!*



*We didn't want a conventional wedding band for the evening so, after watching many YouTube videos, we chose Chromatic who played a mashup of songs and current tracks and kept the dancefloor busy all evening.*

## THE DREAM TEAM

**Photography** | Simon Watson | [simonwatson-photography.co.uk](http://simonwatson-photography.co.uk)

**Venue** | Oxnead Hall | [oxneadhall.co.uk](http://oxneadhall.co.uk)

**Bridesmaids dresses** | Lipsy | [next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)

**Hair** | Arcadia Hairdressers Norwich | [facebook.com/Arcadia-Hairdressers-Norwich-249366395112523](https://facebook.com/Arcadia-Hairdressers-Norwich-249366395112523)

**Make-up** | Peony Beauty | [peonybeauty.co.uk](http://peonybeauty.co.uk)

**Grooms' suits** | Slater Menswear | [slaters.co.uk](http://slaters.co.uk)

**Cake** | Little Millie's | [littlemillies.com](http://littlemillies.com)

**Flowers** | Ragged Robin Florist | [raggedrobinflorist.co.uk](http://raggedrobinflorist.co.uk)

**Stationery** | For Keeps | [forkeeps.uk](http://forkeeps.uk)

**Band** | Chromatic | [chromatic-band.co.uk](http://chromatic-band.co.uk)

**Videography** | Race Videography | [raceweddingvideo.com](http://raceweddingvideo.com)

**Opera Singer** | Gemma Turner | [gemmaturner.co.uk](http://gemmaturner.co.uk)

**Special lighting** | Viking Stage Lighting | [vikinglighting.co.uk](http://vikinglighting.co.uk)



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# All in the detail

Catherine and Michael had their wedding rings flown in by owl

*Images courtesy of Victoria Jane Photography*



It didn't take long for Catherine and Michael to know they were meant for each other. After getting together online, they met up and later shared their first kiss outside Norwich cathedral. "I fell for Michael's loving loyal nature and we moved in together within six months – when you know, you know!" says Catherine.

Michael proposed in the living room of their new home with

a beautiful marquise-cut, diamond-set ring that Catherine chose herself. "I'm very fussy and as I'm going to be wearing it for the rest of my life, I have to like it, right?" she laughs.

They tied the knot on 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 at Hunters Hall, Swanton Morely, in the heart of the Norfolk countryside and opted for a rose gold and ivory colour scheme. Read on for Catherine's account of their big day...





The floral arch was a beautiful feature to get married under. So many people thought it was made with fresh flowers as they looked so real.



The old Victorian barn was beautiful with its high ceiling and original beams.



We had an owl ring bearer which we kept secret, so it was a brilliant surprise for everyone when it flew up the aisle to deliver our rings.

*My dad adores birds of prey so he handled the owl and gave the rings to the best man. Our guests were also able to take pictures with it after the ceremony.*



My Darlene by Rebecca Ingram dress had an off-the-shoulder jacket with elbow-length lace sleeves which I could take off for the evening to reveal the strapless gown with sweetheart neckline – essentially two looks in one.



*We knew Hunters Hall was the one immediately. We loved the long driveway, the fact that we could have the whole place to ourselves and 24 of our guests could stay over too.*





Michael, his best man and my dad wore matching navy blue suits with rose gold ties and pocket squares.



I wanted a statement tiara but couldn't find one I liked, so I designed my own and had it made with ivory freshwater pearls and marquise-shaped Swarovski crystals to match my engagement ring.

*Roses are my favourite flower so they were included in the bouquets in shades of rose gold and peach.*



I wanted big statement centrepieces full of beautiful fresh flowers that were tall enough to allow our guests to talk to each other across the tables.



My best friend who is recovering from cancer agreed to give a speech on the day. There wasn't a dry eye because it meant so much that she was there with us.



Our table plan, table numbers, flower arch, welcome sign, LOVE and I DO letters were all hired from RLA Weddings.





We had an amazing magician who did close-up magic after the ceremony and wedding breakfast.



Our guests loved using the photo booth props and taking lots of funny pictures. We had a copy printed for them and another to put in our guest book along with their messages.



Our first dance was to Tim Halperin's *Forever Starts Today*, it's not a well known song but the words were perfect.



## THE W-DAY TEAM

**Photography** | Victoria Jane Photography | [victoriajanephotography.zenfolio.com](http://victoriajanephotography.zenfolio.com)

**Venue** | Hunters Hall, Swanton Morely | [huntershall.co.uk](http://huntershall.co.uk)

**Bride's dress** | Pure Brides, Norwich | [purebrides.co.uk](http://purebrides.co.uk)

**Tiara** | Bluebell Bridal and Wedding Hair Accessories | [facebook.com/Bluebell-Bridal-and-Wedding-Hair-Accessories-401163843280074](http://facebook.com/Bluebell-Bridal-and-Wedding-Hair-Accessories-401163843280074)

**Hair** | Jayne Ellouise Bridal Hair | [facebook.com/jaynejohnsonmobilehairsdressing](http://facebook.com/jaynejohnsonmobilehairsdressing)

**Make-up** | Fran Straker | [franstraker.com](http://franstraker.com)

**Bridesmaids' and flowergirl dresses** | Monsoon | [uk.monsoon.co.uk](http://uk.monsoon.co.uk)

**Groom's suit** | Pure Suit Hire, Norwich | [puresuithire.co.uk](http://puresuithire.co.uk)

**Stationery and decorative props** | RLA Wedding Designs | [rlaweddingdesigns.co.uk](http://rlaweddingdesigns.co.uk)

**Starlit backdrop, chair sashes and table runners** | Simply Chic Chair Covers | [simply-chic-chair-covers.co.uk](http://simply-chic-chair-covers.co.uk)

**Magician** | Tyler Harrison | [tylerharrison.co.uk](http://tylerharrison.co.uk)

**Owl ring bearer** | Norfolk Wild Encounters | [norfolkwildencounters.net](http://norfolkwildencounters.net)

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# Wild and WONDERFUL

Rip up the rule book for an alternative take on the norm

*Images courtesy of Liz Bishop Photography*

Judging by the reaction to the front cover of our ruby anniversary edition, there's plenty of love for an alternative, edgy bridal look. Shot at Suffolk woodland wedding venue Forest Lodge Weddings, we ran one of the bridal images on the cover as a teaser to whet your appetite for what's to come. Now you can enjoy the whole inspirational shoot in all its glory.

A fusion of the wild and beautiful with the dark and elegant, it bucks convention to offer something a bit different. Taking inspiration from textured 70's retro, rich and earthy details with an air of boho-Gothic chic, the result is a vibrant mix of rich florals, outdoor living, tipis, macramé, firepits, atmospheric woodland, sumptuous details and stunning bridalwear.

The expert behind the lens Norfolk-based photographer Liz Bishop says, "I think there's a marked movement in couples looking beyond the norm, breaking away from convention and tradition, to create their own personalised wedding celebrations. In particular we're seeing more outdoor weddings, alternative brides, colourful cakes and wild florals."



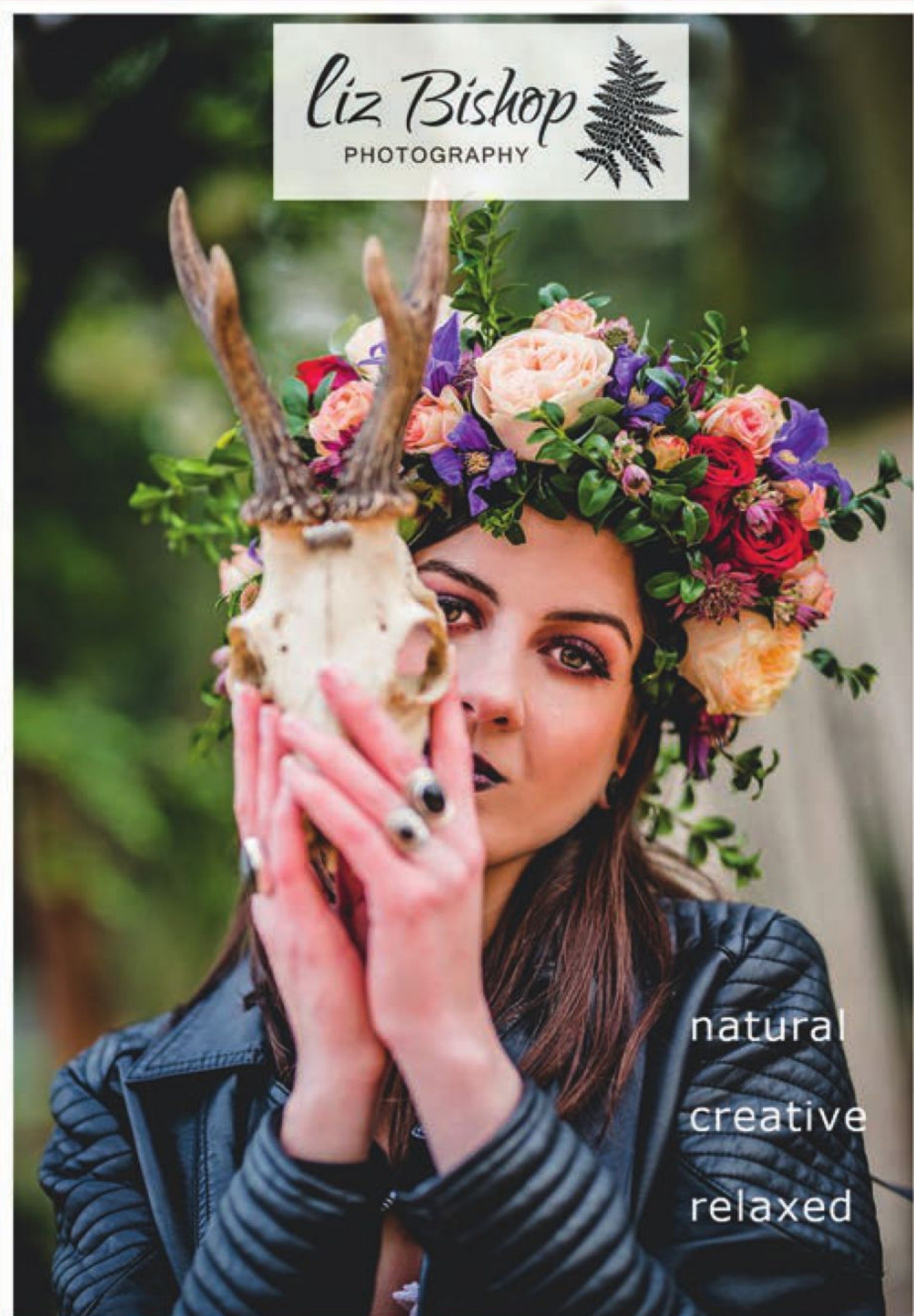




### THE DREAM TEAM

**Photography**, [lizbishoppphotography.co.uk](http://lizbishoppphotography.co.uk); **Venue**, [forestlodgeweddings.co.uk](http://forestlodgeweddings.co.uk); **Dress**, [adellabridal.co.uk](http://adellabridal.co.uk); **Jacket**, [bertievalentinelondon.co.uk](http://bertievalentinelondon.co.uk); **Tipis**, [firefly-tipis.co.uk](http://firefly-tipis.co.uk); **Flowers**, [figflowers.co.uk](http://figflowers.co.uk); **Crockery**, [banquetinghire.co.uk](http://banquetinghire.co.uk); **Props/styling**, [bellesandbeausweddingstyling.co.uk](http://bellesandbeausweddingstyling.co.uk); **Cake**, [cakesbywiola.co.uk](http://cakesbywiola.co.uk). **Make-up**, [stephaniealexandramua.co.uk](http://stephaniealexandramua.co.uk); **Model**, [instagram.com/tabbyfortea](http://instagram.com/tabbyfortea)





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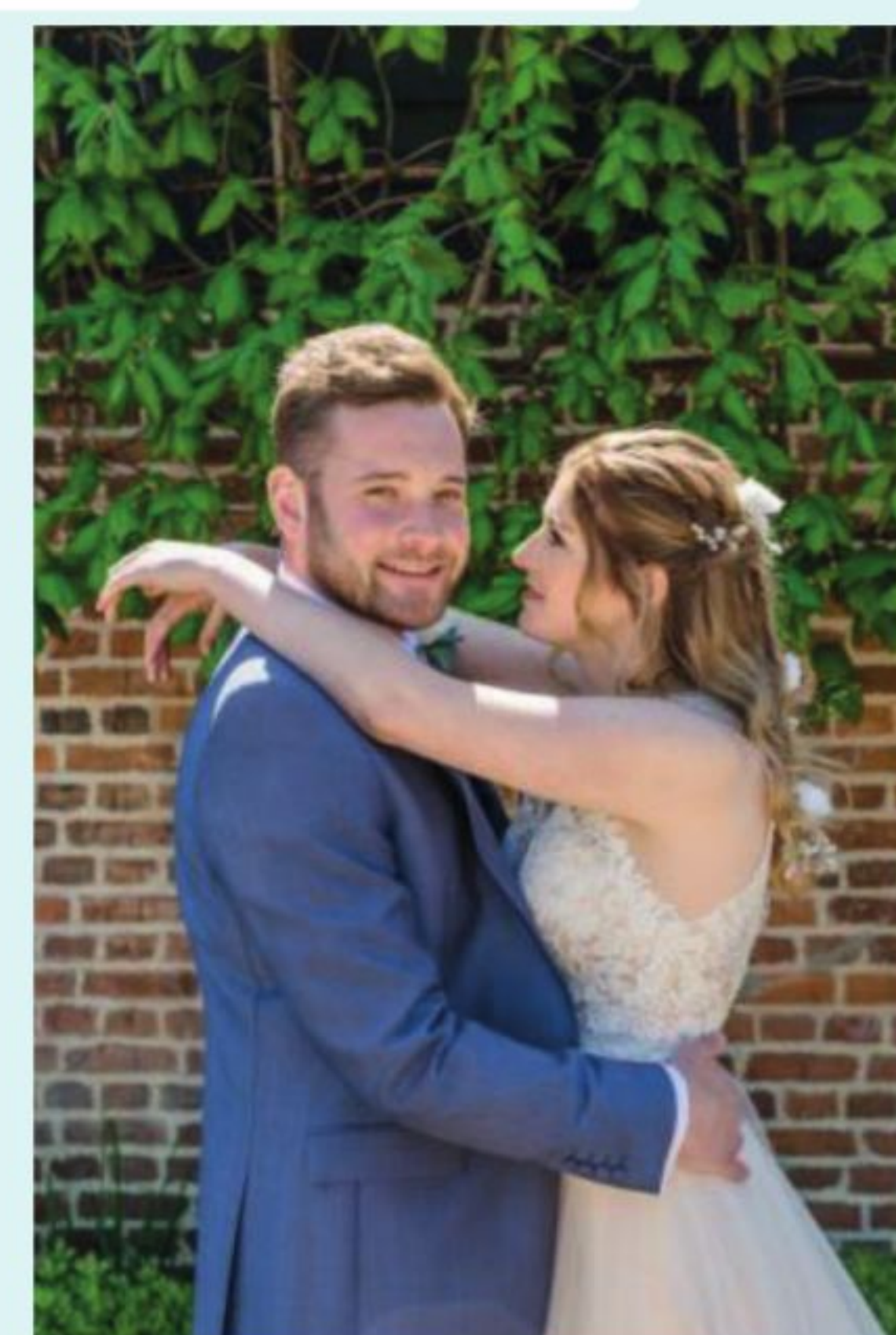
Sunday  
26<sup>th</sup> Apr

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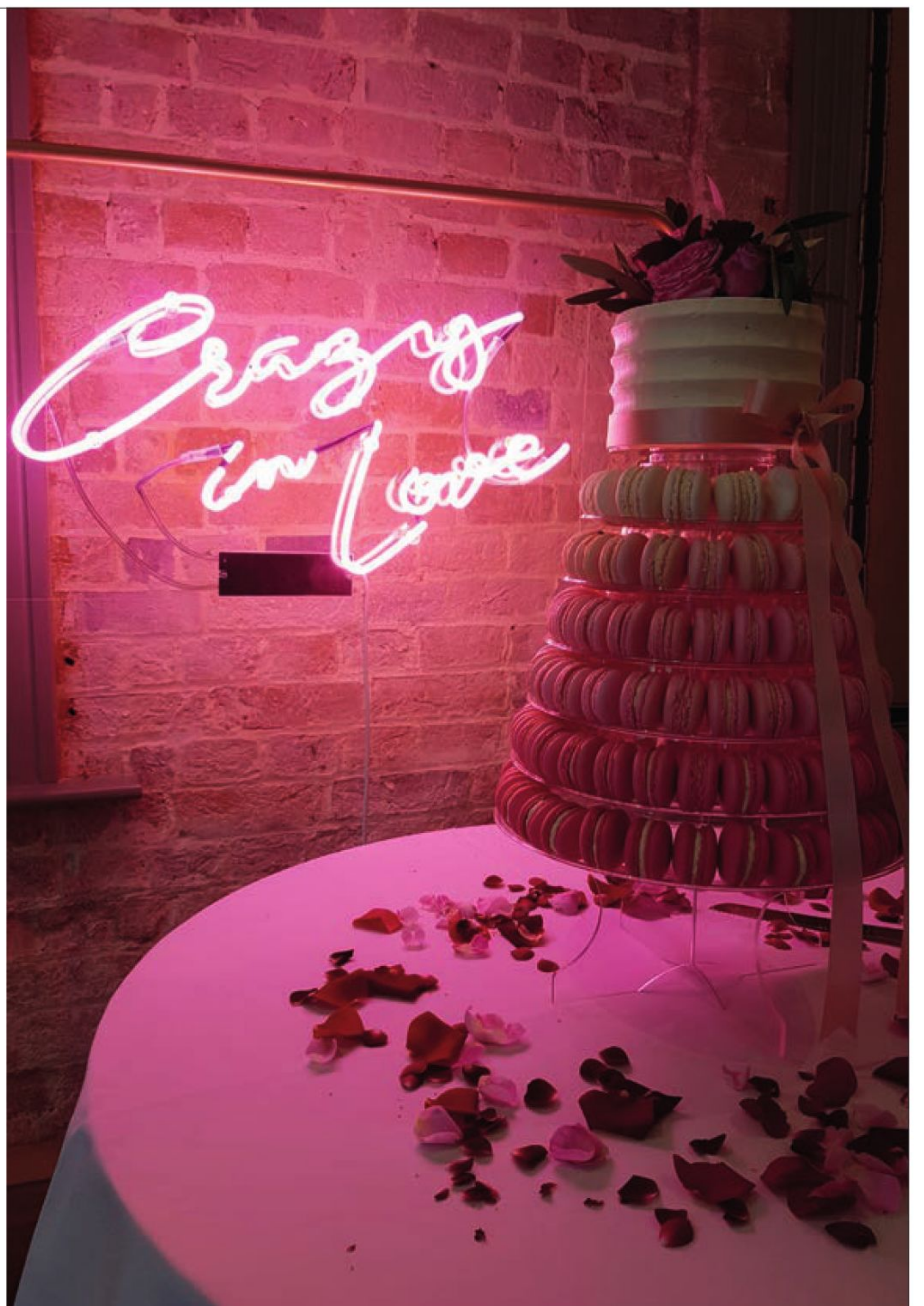
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# DRESSED TO *impress*

Style your big day with on-trend details and decorative touches

*“Our Capri marquees, particularly with the sides left off, help create a less formal atmosphere than traditional marquees and allow guests to enter through any area and connect with the surroundings at the venue.” – Alex Waters, castleacrecanvas.co.uk*

Weddings in 2020 are set to be greener than ever. Not only will sustainability and eco credentials be high on couples' tick lists, but verdant colour schemes, foliage and natural greenery will be big too. More and more couples will be looking to reduce the carbon footprint of their day, sourcing local produce and suppliers close to home to cut down on travel miles. Plastic-free weddings will be on the rise, with growing emphasis on recyclable materials and planet-friendly products.

Image: tamsynmorgans.com  
Flowers: rose-florist.co.uk

1



*“For couples wanting a fresh, pared-back look and a sense of relaxed elegance on their big day, the popular rustic, country-chic theme is perfect. Think whites, rustic elements and greenery; simple but beautiful!”*  
– Collette Hanlon, owner  
Vintage Stagers

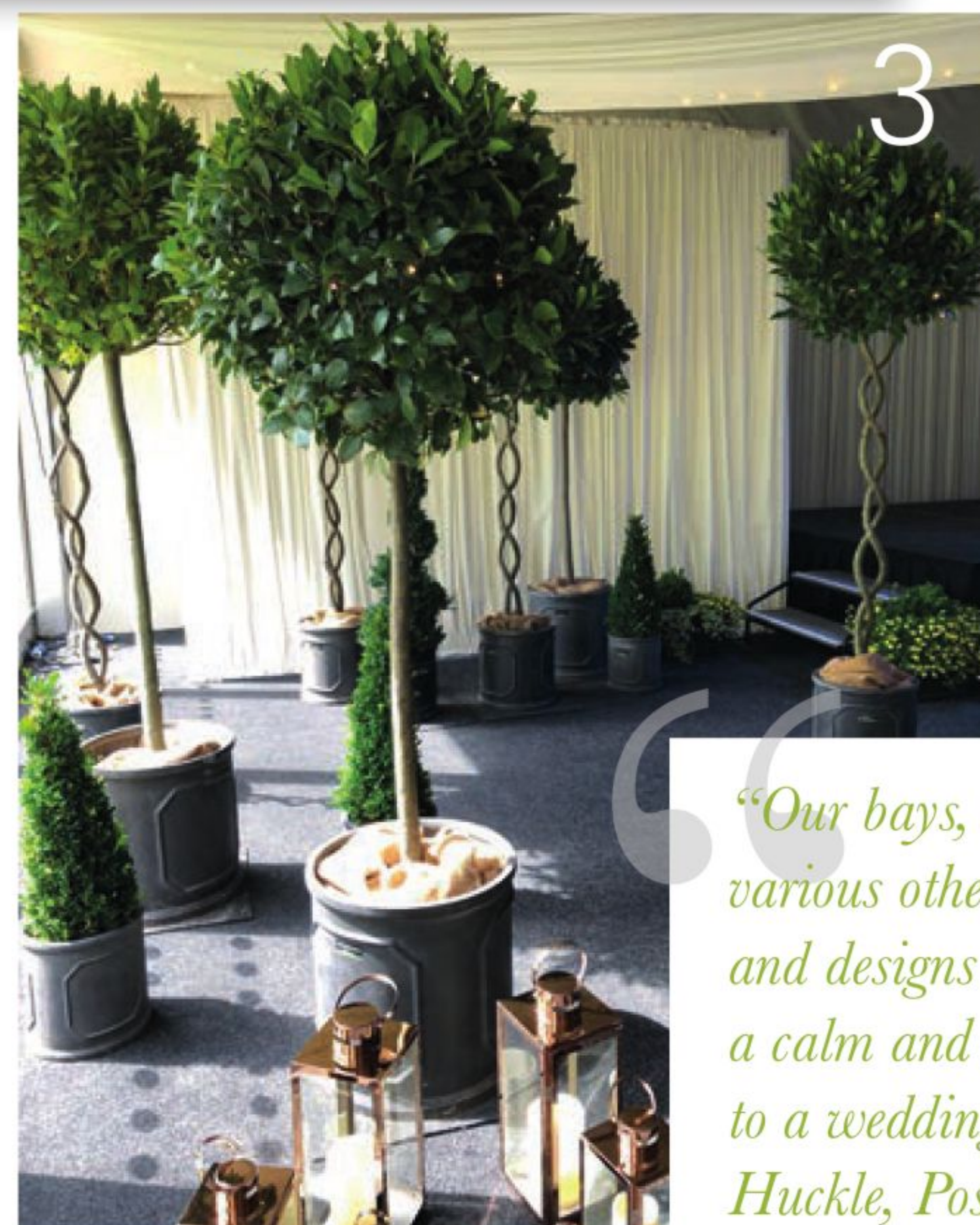
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Image: tamsynmorgans.com  
Flowers: rose-florist.co.uk

*“Suspended floral installations are a trend that’s not going anywhere! With an increase in the use of more greenery and locally sourced flowers, this is the perfect way to make a statement that’s not only naturally styled but also sustainable.”* – Lisa Dew, floral stylist at Vintage Stagers

3



*“Our bays, olives and various other shapes and designs of trees add a calm and natural feel to a wedding.”* – Sue Huckle, Posh Plants

1&2, vintagestagers.co.uk, 3, poshplants.com



# SOMETHING *blue*



6

*“Popping a splash of blue into your venue styling will be right on trend and by hiring vintage furniture and props you’ll have your something old covered too!” – Collette Hanlon, Vintage Stagers*

Flowers: [rose-florist.co.uk](http://rose-florist.co.uk)  
[tamsynmorgans.com](http://tamsynmorgans.com)

3



[thewomanandthewolf.com](http://thewomanandthewolf.com)

1



Flowers: [rose-florist.co.uk](http://rose-florist.co.uk)  
[tamsynmorgans.com](http://tamsynmorgans.com)

4



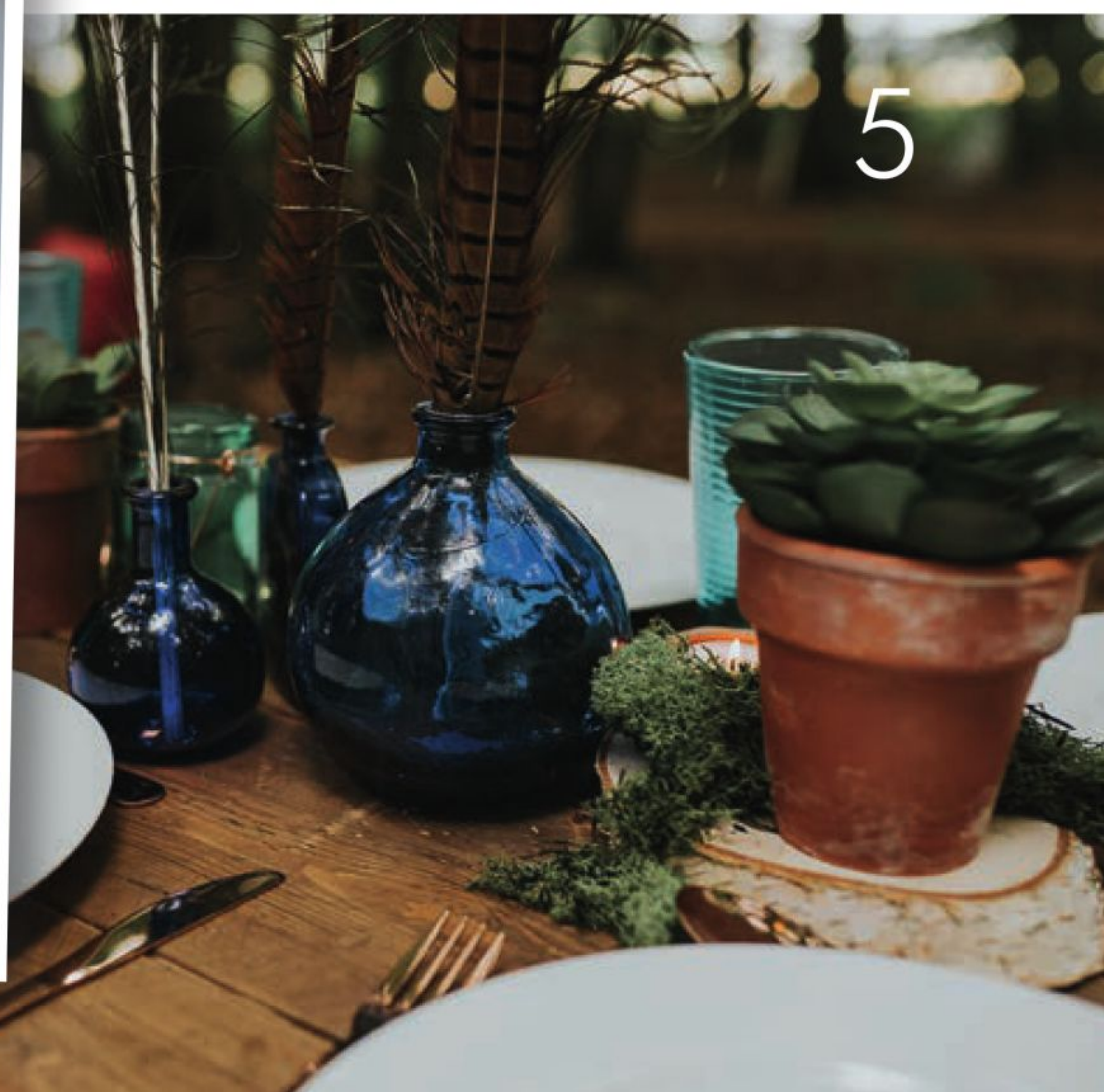
[thewomanandthewolf.com](http://thewomanandthewolf.com)

2



*“Foliage will still be dominant, but mixed with bold statement colours – including this year’s Pantone Colour of the Year Classic Blue, with hot pinks and yellows. The bolder the better!” – Amy Kearton, [vintagesilk.co.uk](http://vintagesilk.co.uk)*

5



[chrisbottrellphotography.co.uk](http://chrisbottrellphotography.co.uk)

1&2, [endlessstory.co.uk](http://endlessstory.co.uk); 3&4, [vintagestagers.co.uk](http://vintagestagers.co.uk), 5&6, [vintagesilk.co.uk](http://vintagesilk.co.uk)





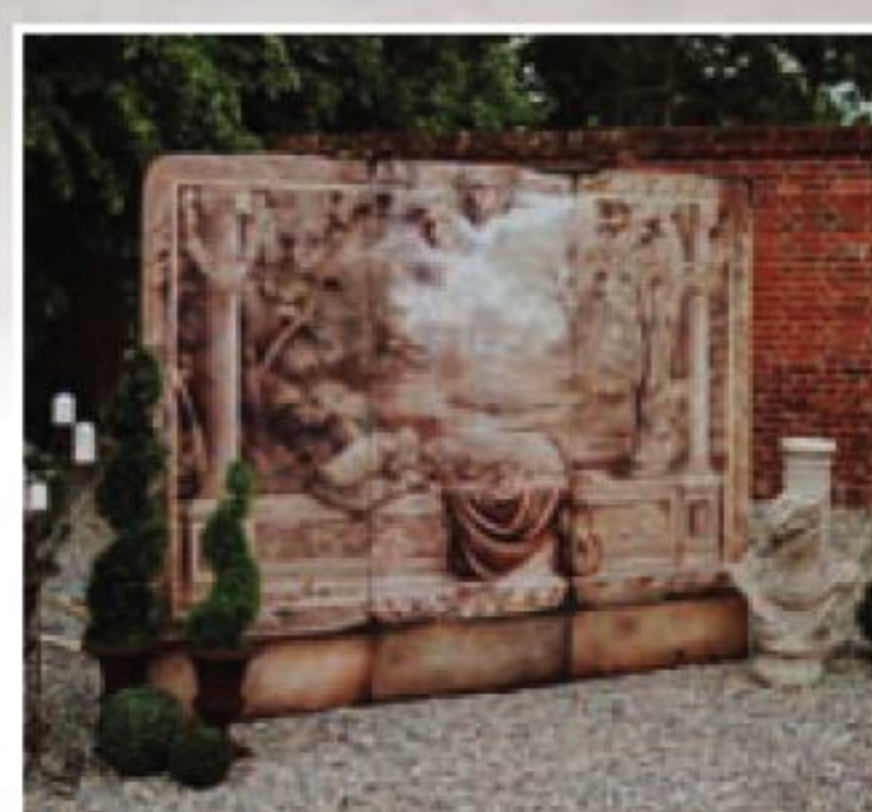
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[AMYATVINTAGESILK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMYATVINTAGESILK@GMAIL.COM)



# ALL THE BIT OF WHAT YOU *fancy*

Image: tamsynmorgans.com  
Flowers: rose-florist.co.uk

1

*“It’s all about bringing the inside out for 2020, creating mini living room and lounge areas outside. Think vintage chairs and coffee tables in small clusters to create a cosy and comfy space.” – Amy Kearton, [vintagesilk.co.uk](http://vintagesilk.co.uk)*



*“With the trend for more intimate micro weddings on the rise, a tea party could be the perfect way for your guests to celebrate your special day. Use vintage china, props and furniture to create the look.” Collette Hanlon, [Vintage Stagers](http://VintageStagers.com)*

[thewomanandthewolf.com](http://thewomanandthewolf.com)

2

*“Wow your wedding guests with a new-school backdrop.” – Kerry Langham, [Endless Story](http://EndlessStory.com)*

Langham Abbey sepia-toned backdrop

[thewomanandthewolf.com](http://thewomanandthewolf.com)

3



A Grand Capital Affair; stunning as a table plan



1, [vintagestagers.co.uk](http://vintagestagers.co.uk); 2&3, [endlessstory.co.uk](http://endlessstory.co.uk)





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# After all this time? Always

Fall in love with this dreamy *Harry Potter*-themed wedding shoot  
Images courtesy of *Thyme Lane Photography*



Kimbolton Castle in Cambridgeshire provided the perfect location for this magical shoot.

A stunning wedding venue, rich in history with fabulous period features, it's ideal for a spellbinding *Harry Potter*-esque vibe.



#### THE DREAM TEAM

**Photography;** [thymelanephoto.com](http://thymelanephoto.com); **Venue,** [kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/weddings](http://kimbolton.cambs.sch.uk/weddings); **Styling,** [nikkitapalmer.com/the-eclectic-collection](http://nikkitapalmer.com/the-eclectic-collection); **Flowers,** [elyflowers.co.uk](http://elyflowers.co.uk); **Dress,** [larab.co.uk](http://larab.co.uk); **Suit,** [duncanjames.co.uk](http://duncanjames.co.uk); **Make-up,** [flashkate.com](http://flashkate.com); **Hair,** [kateatalay.co.uk](http://kateatalay.co.uk); **Calligraphy,** [instagram.com/dorothys\\_workshop6](http://instagram.com/dorothys_workshop6); **Cake,** [onepartlove.co.uk](http://onepartlove.co.uk); **Hair accessories,** [rachelsohalbridal.com](http://rachelsohalbridal.com); **Silk ribbons,** [bertieandfredsite.wordpress.com](http://bertieandfredsite.wordpress.com); **Models,** [instagram.com/georgiaspanoudakis](http://instagram.com/georgiaspanoudakis), [sambarraclough.com](http://sambarraclough.com)





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Our elegant copper frame comes with the beautiful silk flower arrangements, lanterns and the personalised polaroid frame, perfect feature to capture those ever lasting memories on your big day.

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Our 4ft love letters have been filled with over 700 hand selected silk flowers to create a stunning arrangement. Styled with pastel coloured roses, peonies and hydrangea's. They make the perfect prop and bring a unique feature to your special day. Our love letters also come with subtle LED lighting to make a great accomplishment day or night.

## COPPER SEATING PLAN & COPPER WELCOME SIGN

Let your guests find their seats and be welcomed by our beautiful personalised copper frame signs. The 24 hour hire includes a choice of hand selected silk flowers and lanterns to help create the finishing touches.

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Our post box is a perfect way to keep your cards safe on your wedding day, we also personalise the front for the new Mr & Mrs.



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# THE COUNTDOWN'S ON

## Your to-do list sorted

So there's a sparkly new ring on your finger; congratulations! Enjoy this special time, celebrate and when you're ready to set the date, you can get cracking with the wedding planning.

### *The time*

When it comes to thinking about when you want to marry, there are lots of considerations to take on board. If you already have a venue in mind, you need to check availability, then there's family and key members of the bridal party to take into account, bank holidays, landmark birthdays, baby due-dates and any other major forthcoming events that might clash. If your other half is a die-hard footie fan, and their favourite team is destined for the cup final, it may be a good idea to check the fixtures list too!

### *The dress*



Time to hit the shops! Even if you want to wait for the latest on-trend designs to hit the rails, it pays to do some research into the style you're after early on. Check out your local suppliers and wedding fairs for help and advice from those in the know. Bridal boutique owners and their staff spend their days helping brides-to-be find *the one* and have a trained eye for spotting the best styles to suit different shapes. Try to keep an open mind and you may find your dream gown is one you'd never imagined before. To avoid disappointment, don't leave it until the last minute, as some designer gowns can take months to arrive in store. You need to allow for any last-minute alterations too.



Wedding barn at Knights Hill Hotel & Spa in South Wootton, Norfolk ([knightshill.co.uk](http://knightshill.co.uk))

### *The place*

"If you're struggling to pinpoint the type of wedding you want then I would suggest that you keep an open mind, listen to recommendations but most importantly stay true to your dreams and aspirations. Wedding open days are the perfect opportunity to visit a variety of venues and speak to the teams about what you want to achieve for your perfect day." - Julie Gibson, sales & marketing manager, [abacushotels.co.uk](http://abacushotels.co.uk)

Some people have their heart set on a particular venue from the get-go, so it's just about setting the date. Others may be starting from scratch, so need to get looking as soon as possible because once the where and when are sorted, everything else can flow from there. It helps to have an idea of the style and theme you want, as that will narrow down the list. Doing your homework, researching online and scouring local wedding magazines will help too. Once you've picked your favourites, it's time to get viewing. Before you go though, be prepared with an idea of the size of your budget, guest list and any must-haves, to make sure it ticks all your important boxes.



### *The bridal party*

Once your dress is in the bag, it's easier to decide on the right look for the bride tribe. Having a colour scheme narrows it down but the whole squad doesn't have to wear the same. You can have a single colour in a range of different shades for a coordinated look or contrasting hues for an eye-catching rainbow effect. There's no one-size-fits-all solution and there are a number of ranges available now that can be worn in a variety of ways to suit different heights and body shapes. If your best girls are spread far and wide, you can share ideas online, send a colour swatch or fabric sample and let them choose. Whatever you decide, the more comfortable everyone feels the better and it will shine out in the photos.





## The people

With a little give and take, drawing up the guest list doesn't have to be stressful. At the end of the day it's your wedding, but if it's a family affair, there may be a relative or two that need to be invited just to keep the peace. If budget and space allow, sometimes it pays to compromise – just a little! The most important thing is to get the numbers sorted early and send out save-the-dates so your loved ones can get it on the calendar as soon as possible. You'll need an idea of the size of your party before choosing the venue too, as it's no good setting your heart on somewhere that's either too big or too small.

## The photos

Finding the right photographer to suit you is a priority, as established professionals get booked up well in advance, especially during the peak summer wedding season. Online galleries and recommendations are great for helping you choose, but nothing quite beats a face-to-face meeting to seal the deal. Your photographer will be sharing your special day with you, so it's important to make sure you get on. If you're camera-shy an engagement shoot will help, not only a lasting keepsake, but a great way to build confidence so you can feel relaxed and comfortable on the big day.

## Top tip

"Photographers usually have their own style, so take a look at their portfolio and make sure their images are what you want for your big day. Visit the venue with them – I always do this with my couples at least once so you can have a run through, look closely at the layout and see where the best shots can be taken on the day." – Denise Brady, Suffolk [denisebradyphotography.com](http://denisebradyphotography.com)



## The food

Putting on a great spread is one of the memories that often lingers longest in people's memories. Nowadays, there's a wealth of alternatives to the traditional sit-down meal, everything from food trucks and barbecues for outdoor celebrations to afternoon tea receptions, grazing stations and sharing platters; great for helping guests mix and mingle. Vegetarian and vegan options are increasingly important too.

**Check out:** Cambridgeshire-based Little Piggy Catering helps guide you through the planning process by jointly exploring your priorities, tastes and budget in order to tailor a wedding feast to suit you, your guests and the style of your celebration. Visit [littlepiggycatering.co.uk](http://littlepiggycatering.co.uk)





highlodge.co.uk

## The fun stuff

Sit back and relax and let your best girls take over organising the hen party. It's nice to let go of the reins and you can always drop some subtle hints as to what you like, and don't like! Get the finances sorted from the start so everyone knows who's paying for what and get any deposits in early, to deter people from bailing out at the last minute.

**Check out:** Nestled in 120 acres of Suffolk woodland, close to the popular seaside towns of Southwold and Aldeburgh, High Lodge offers the perfect location for a fun-filled get together. With packages to suit all, you can take your pick from a full day of activities to a peaceful weekend retreat relaxing in one of the 19 luxury lodges, some with private hot tubs.

Visit [highlodge.co.uk](http://highlodge.co.uk)

## The details

It's easy to get carried away with all the decorative details and personal touches, but sticking to your budget is always a good idea if you want to sleep easy and enjoy the wedding planning. Make a list in order of priority and concentrate on all the important stuff first. Then if the money runs out before you've ticked off the last few things, don't worry; no one will notice! Keep on top of the paperwork too, invest in a wedding box file or use a phone app to keep booking confirmations, receipts and important documents handy.



Bedford Lodge Relaxation Room

## The me-time

Don't forget to factor in some me-time along the way. Have a regular date night with your partner or enjoy some pre-wedding pampering with your best girls and declare it a wedding-free zone. There's a wealth of fabulous hotels and venues with spas in the region where you can chill out and book a beauty treatment or two! Most importantly of all have fun and don't sweat the small stuff.

**Check out:** The Bedford Lodge Hotel, Newmarket for a range of wonderful pre-wedding spa and pamper packages, including their ultimate bridal experience to add extra luxury into the wedding planning. Visit [bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk](http://bedfordlodgehotel.co.uk)



2019 has been quite a year for County Wedding Magazines and Events HQ, the launch of our Signature Wedding Shows were such a huge success that the 2020 dates are bigger and better than ever. Here's what to expect when attending one of our events...

## LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Our Signature Wedding Shows are held in some of the most recognised sporting and event venues in the UK. Brides- and grooms-to-be will be in awe of the sleek and stylish setting of Mercedes-Benz World, Surrey, sited on the famous Brooklands race circuit – you can even have an on-the-day driving experience should you wish!

Follow in the footsteps of royalty at Ascot Racecourse, Berkshire, situated on Crown Estate, it's the Royal Racecourse frequently visited by the Queen and hosts some of the biggest meets in the racing calendar; and, from one world-renowned location to another, why not attend our wedding show at Wembley Stadium, London, for a truly spectacular setting – from England to Brazil, all the greats have played here.

Finally, regular reality TV watchers will be familiar with The Brentwood Centre, Essex, a regular feature in Sam and Billie Faiers' *The Mummy Diaries* and the home of our very first Signature Wedding Show.

## ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

When attending one of our Signature Wedding Shows couples and their entourage are in for a treat. Each event will boast up to 150 exhibitors comprising a huge range of specialists who will be on hand to talk through your planning ideas and requirements; venues, bridal boutiques, photographers, florists, cake makers and more, there's everything you could need under one roof.

On the day, visitors can enjoy fashion catwalks of the latest bridal, groom and mother-of-the-bride collections, partake in styling demonstrations and watch live entertainment, all whilst enjoying samples and tasters from our exhibitors. Refreshments are also available to purchase from each of the venue's on-site restaurants, bars and cafés.

What's more, by attending our exhibitions couples will benefit from free entry, will receive a goody bag including a copy of a County Wedding Magazine as well as be entered into a competition to win a honeymoon to a luxurious destination.

From sampling cocktails to tasting ice cream, listening to live musicians and watching the fashion shows, it's an exciting day for all who attend.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our Signature Wedding Shows!

*Sarah x*

*Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.*

*Psst! The first 100 couples through the door will receive a free Wedding Journal Keepsake, and our pre-registered visitors will have the chance to win a £250 gift voucher courtesy of Spabreaks.com*



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MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2020

WEMBLEY STADIUM, 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2020  
THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

Pre-register for all of our events at [countyweddingevents.com](http://countyweddingevents.com)







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- Bridal fashion shows
- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
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A date for your diary...

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Hosted at The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road,  
Brentwood, Essex CM15 9NN

Pre-register at [countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm](https://countyweddingevents.com/registration.cfm)

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# Signature

WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

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## One of the largest wedding shows to be held in the South of England

- Free entry
- Goody bag for each couple
- First 100 couples attending receive a Wedding Journal Keepsake
- Win a luxury honeymoon
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- Huge number of wedding specialists including venues
- Bridal fashion shows
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- Entertainment
- Refreshments

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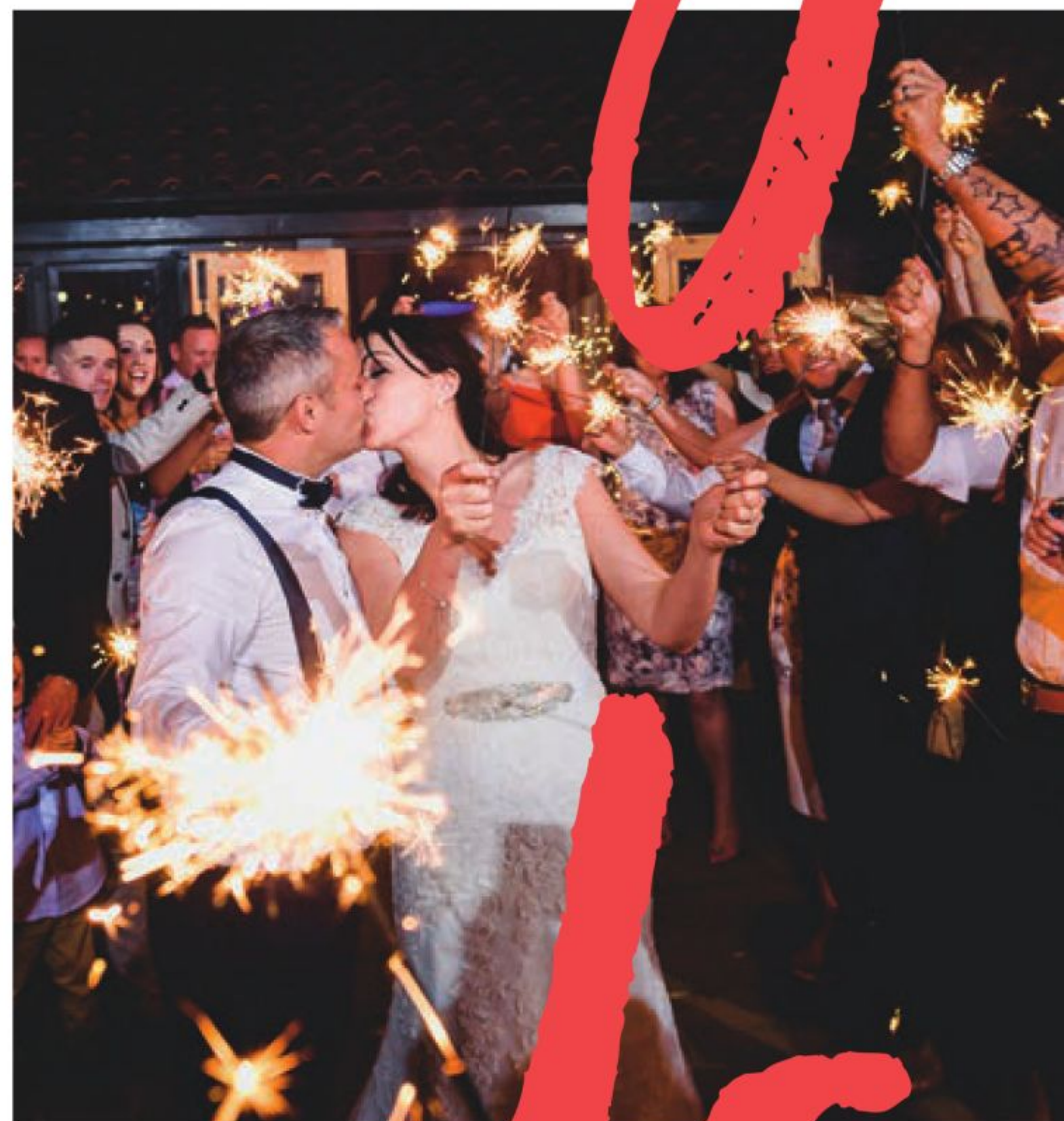


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## Gift it

The Wedding Collection by Wanderlust Life is a new jewellery launch, brimming with handmade pieces featuring mother-of-pearl, semi-precious stones and freshwater pearls. We love these champagne quartz earrings, £44, [wanderlustlife.co.uk](http://wanderlustlife.co.uk) [wanderlustlifejewellery](https://www.instagram.com/wanderlustlifejewellery)

## Editor's favourite

Wedding Buttonique custom-makes button and brooch bouquets that will last a lifetime, [etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique) [weddingbuttonique](https://www.instagram.com/weddingbuttonique)



## Stylish maids

Grace Loves Lace has launched its new Silky Satin Bridesmaids Edit. This selection of luxurious hand-crafted pieces includes three versatile styles – a midi and mini dress, and a two-piece set available in olive, dusk, steel and moonshine shades. A range of accessories including satin hair buns and scarves has also been unveiled.

In other news, the company has launched their first pair of white leather wedding trainers, ideal for brides wanting comfort and fashion, [graceloveslace.com](http://graceloveslace.com) [grace\\_loves\\_lace](https://www.instagram.com/grace_loves_lace)



FASHION

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

These ivory satin bridal peep toes adorned with a large chiffon bow at the back, £220, are the latest offering from shoe designer Harriet Wilde. Why not personalise the soles with a short message available in a variety of colours and a choice of fonts? [harrietwilde.com](http://harrietwilde.com) [harrietwildeshoes](https://www.instagram.com/harrietwildeshoes)



# Fashion focus

Fashion editor Claire Ridley reveals the latest bridal news, buys and launches

## NAME IT

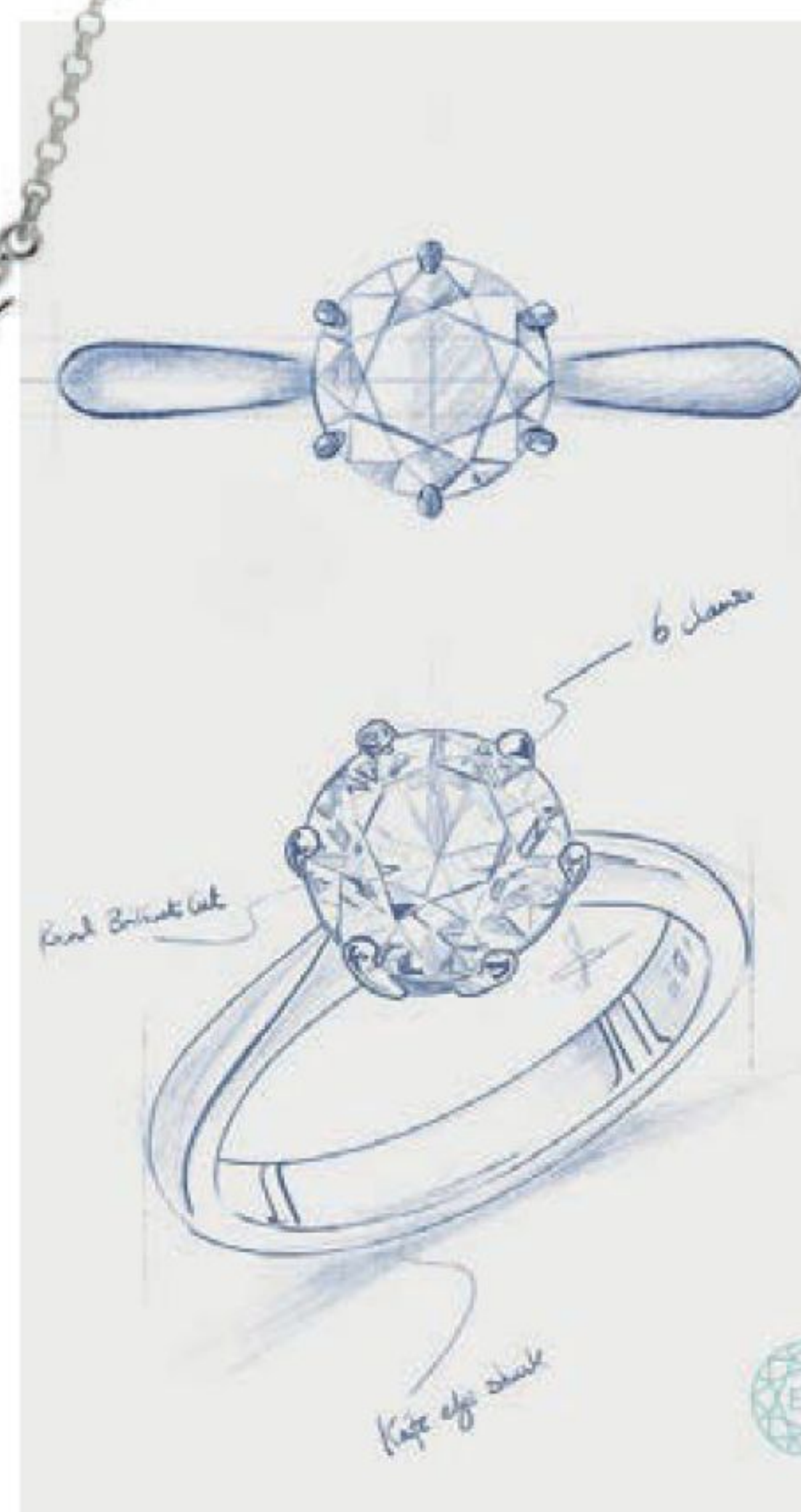
This sterling silver name necklace, £40, is from the new personalised collection from [jewellerybox.co.uk](http://jewellerybox.co.uk) and makes the ideal big-day keepsake. [jewelleryboxuk](https://www.instagram.com/jewelleryboxuk)



## PICK YOUR OWN

Jeweller Emily Mortimer has launched a bespoke service where couples can choose the stone, carat, metal, shape and colour of their engagement ring.

Emily discusses initial ideas and then produces a three-dimensional CAD design, along with a quote that's always within budget. Only the best quality gemstones and GIA-certified diamonds are sourced. Emily will also remodel heirloom pieces, [emilymortimer.co.uk](http://emilymortimer.co.uk) [emilymortimerjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/emilymortimerjewellery)



## EDITOR'S PICK

Thank your best girls with this gold-tone crystal bracelet, £89, from the new Tarot Magic collection by [swarovski.com](http://swarovski.com) [swarovski](https://www.instagram.com/swarovski)



## What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released Bouxique by Boux Avenue, a luxury new capsule collection inspired by traditional corsetry techniques and French lace fabrics. Bold red and black pieces feature supportive designs and are honeymoon lust-haves, [bouxavenue.com](http://bouxavenue.com) [bouxavenue](https://www.instagram.com/bouxavenue)





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Kelly Faetanini at [elliesanderson.co.uk](http://elliesanderson.co.uk)

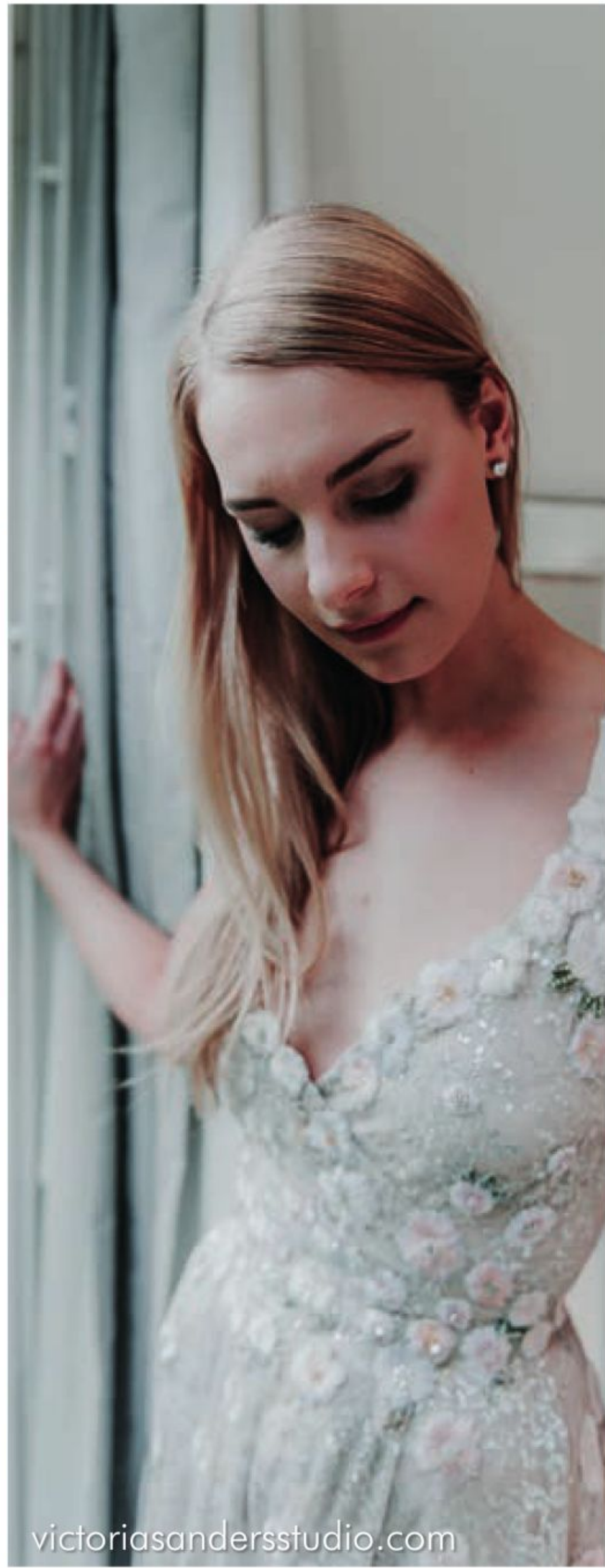


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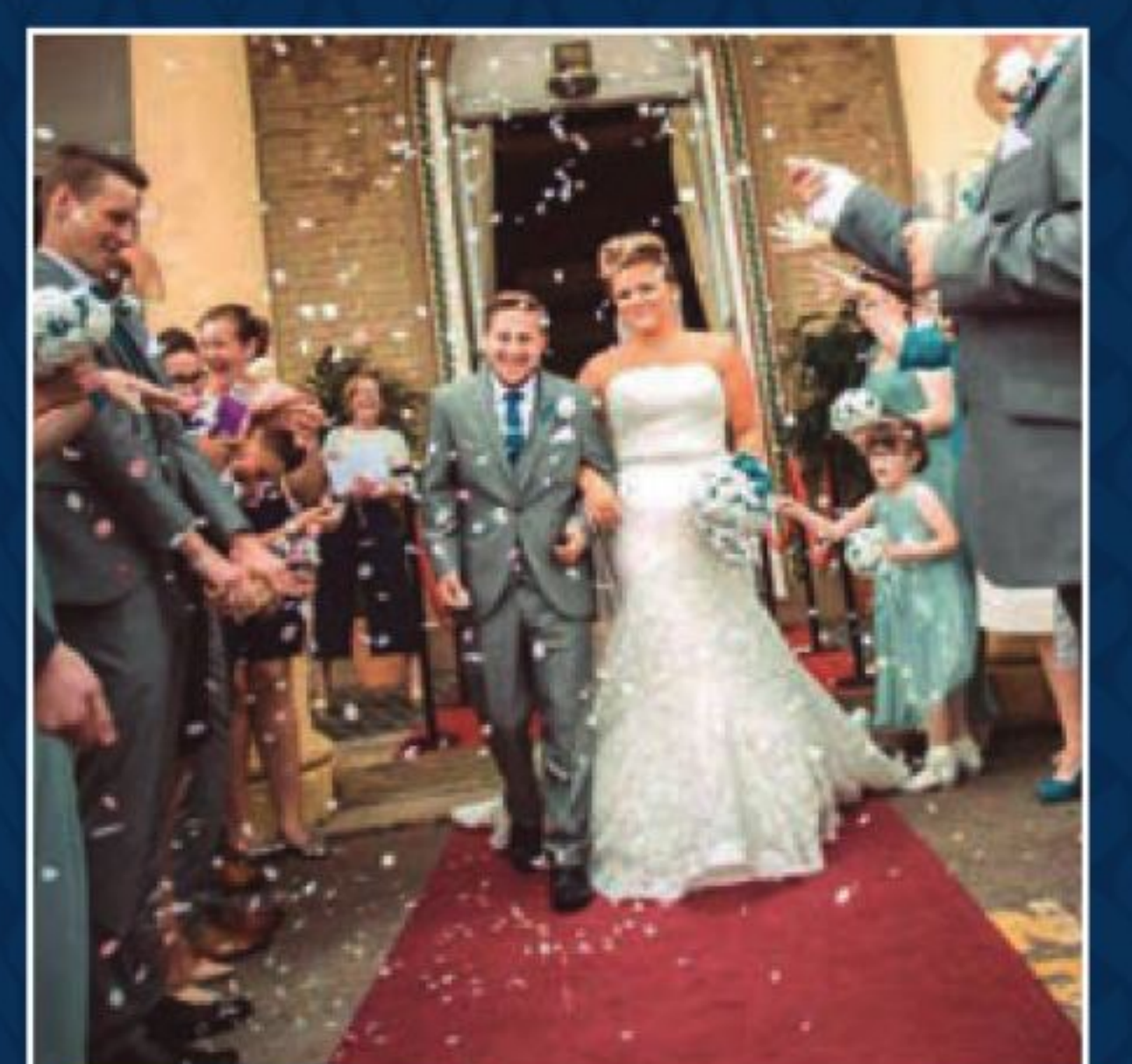
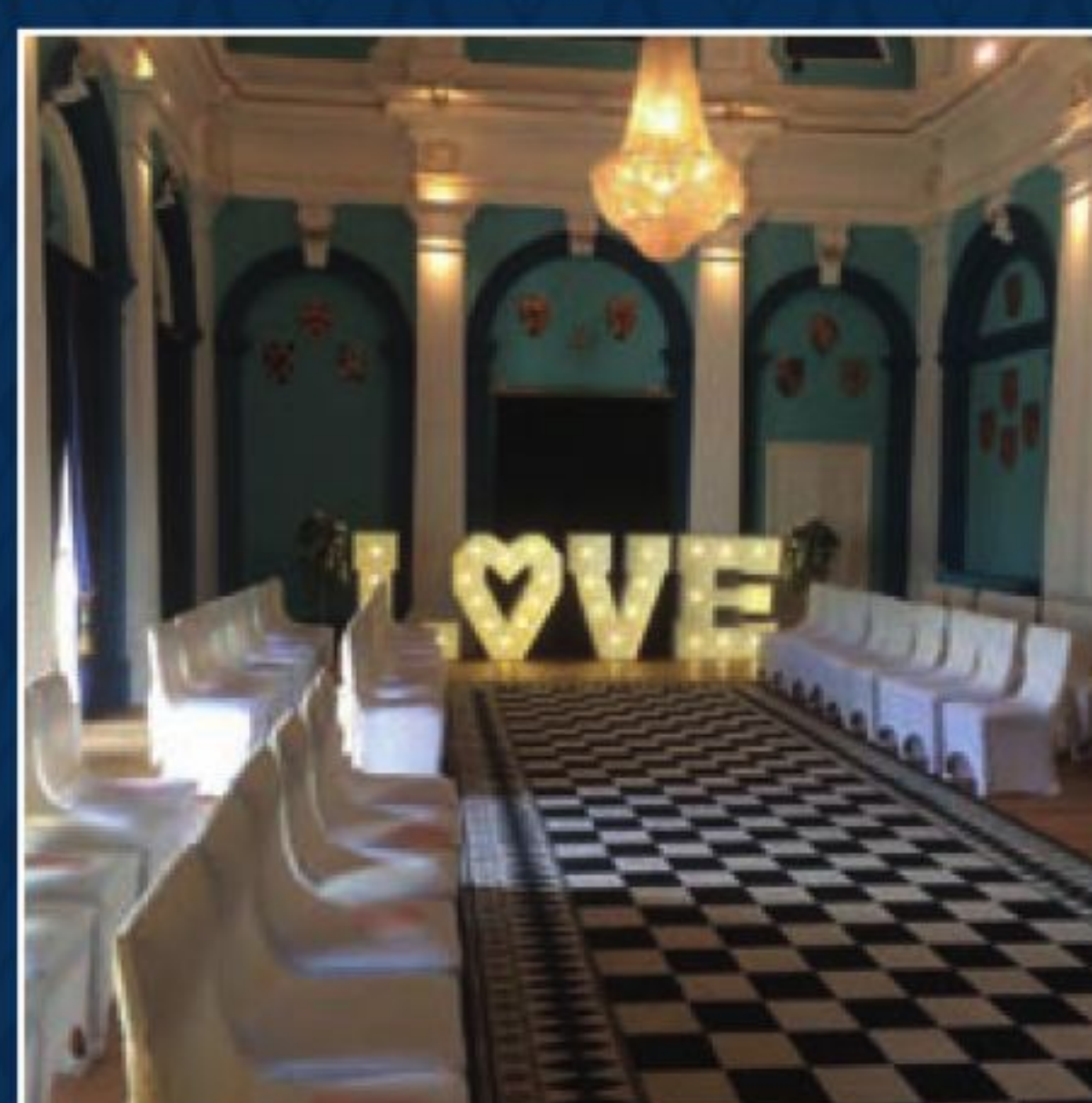
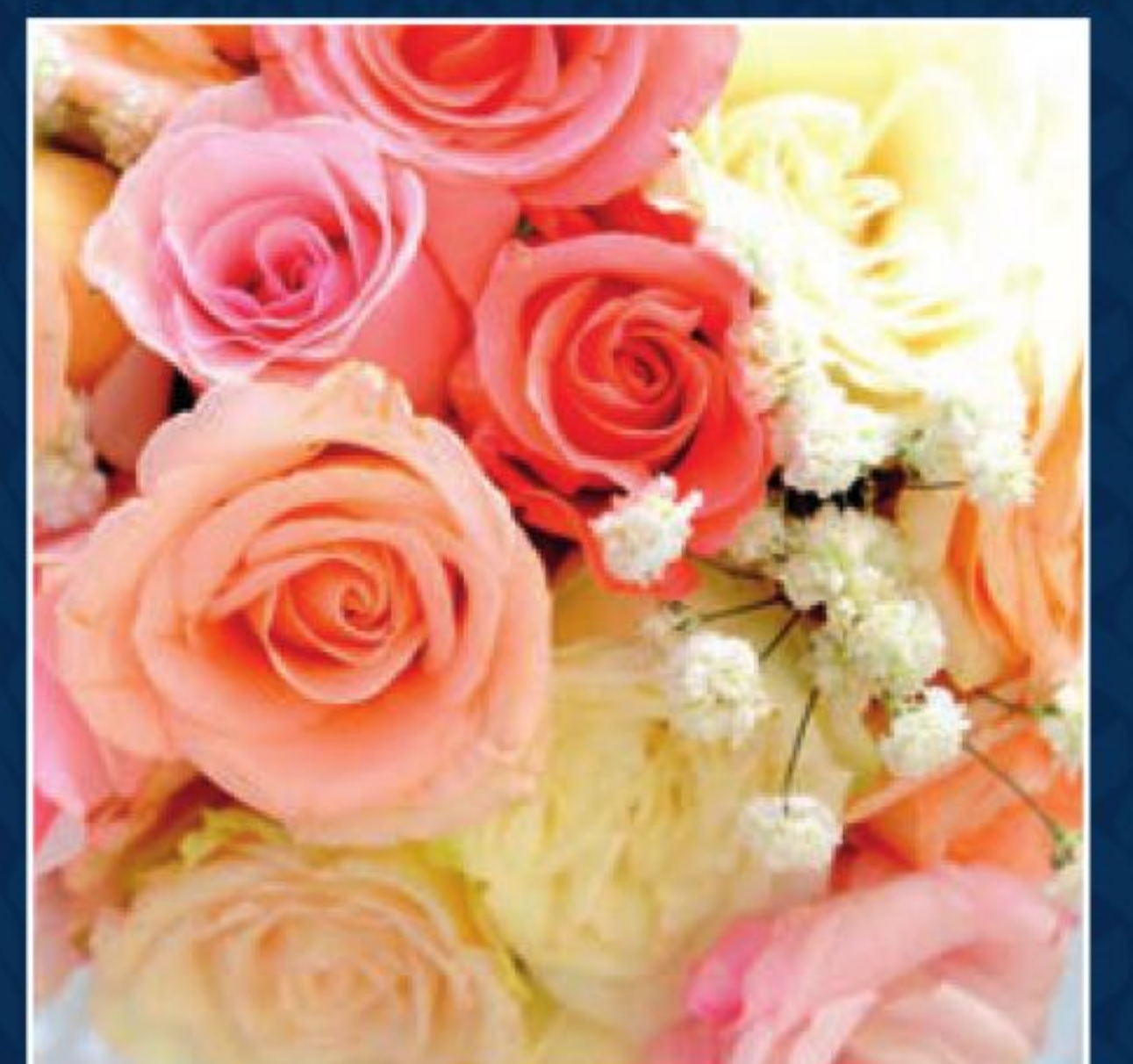
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# Dare To BARE

Dresses featuring decorative back detail are this season's hottest trend





Saint by alexandragrecco.com



Celestial by charlottebalbier.com



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monicavinader.com



Blue crystal stud earrings,  
£45, uk.pandora.net



Rainbow pastel clutch bag,  
£40, dunelondon.com

KissKiss Liquid in Miss Glitter,  
£29.50, feelunique.com



Pistachio full-length dress,  
£150, thandth.com

Pink scarf, £95,  
marc-cain.com



Blue headband with  
pearls and Swarovski  
crystals, £74,  
aliceandblair.co.uk

Wedding guests will love this  
season's sweet selection of  
ladylike pieces

Powder blue off-the-shoulder dress,  
£195, theprettydresscompany.com



Rainbow pastel court shoes,  
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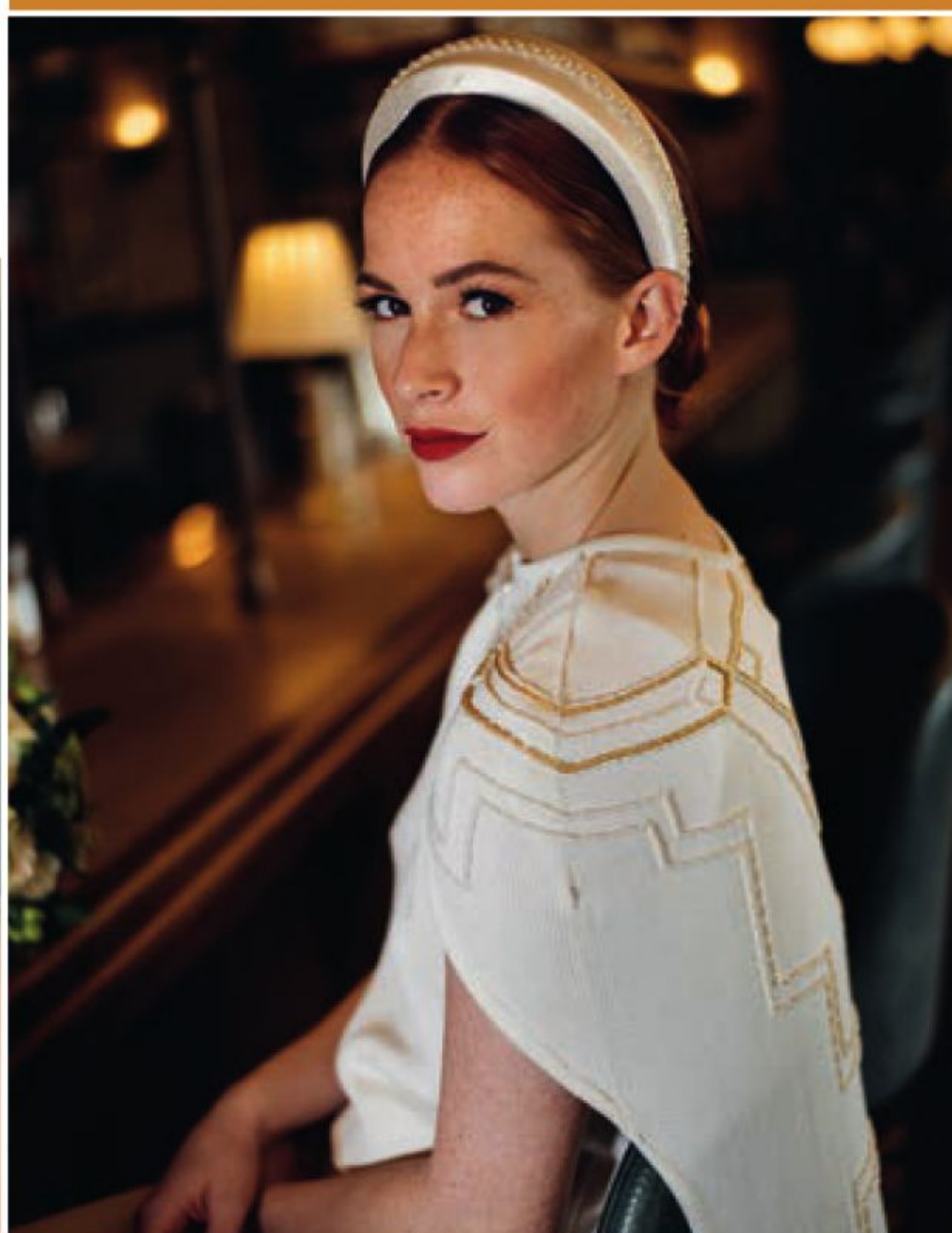


# Style & SUBSTANCE

Bridal glamour meets city-centre chic at the uber stylish University Arms, Cambridge  
Images courtesy of Markuza Photography

The year ahead is looking good for brides-to-be with an eclectic mix of styles to suit all tastes. To showcase the diversity of options for 2020, East Anglian hair and beauty expert Ieva Genovesi created a range of stunning bridal looks covering everything from the alternative and retro to elegant and classic, romantic and boho, all set against the backdrop of chic Cambridge wedding venue the University Arms Hotel.

“The knitted CoopCouture wedding dress blended perfectly with the hotel’s stylish surroundings. The sleek bun, amazing hairband, natural glowing skin, finished with a bold red lip is a hot trend for brides who want to make a statement.”



*“For the romantic, boho bride, think earthy, sun-kissed make-up, loose messy bun or unruly curls.” – Ieva*

*“For the classic bride who wants to feel like a princess on her wedding day, I chose big hair, bright shimmering eye make-up and a crown by Botias accessories to match the gorgeous puffy glitter dress.”*



Casablanca Bridal style 2335





*“For brides who go for form over detail, this gorgeous simple design was photographed at the hotel entrance to show the scale of the dress and to achieve a wow-factor effect with the the veil” – Ieva*



Amaral by St Patrick plain A-Line satin gown



*“Ponytails are going to be more and more in demand by brides in the upcoming season. I decorated this one with a gorgeous shimmering hair comb from Burr Bridal and went for brighter lips to balance the style.” – Ieva*



### THE DREAM TEAM

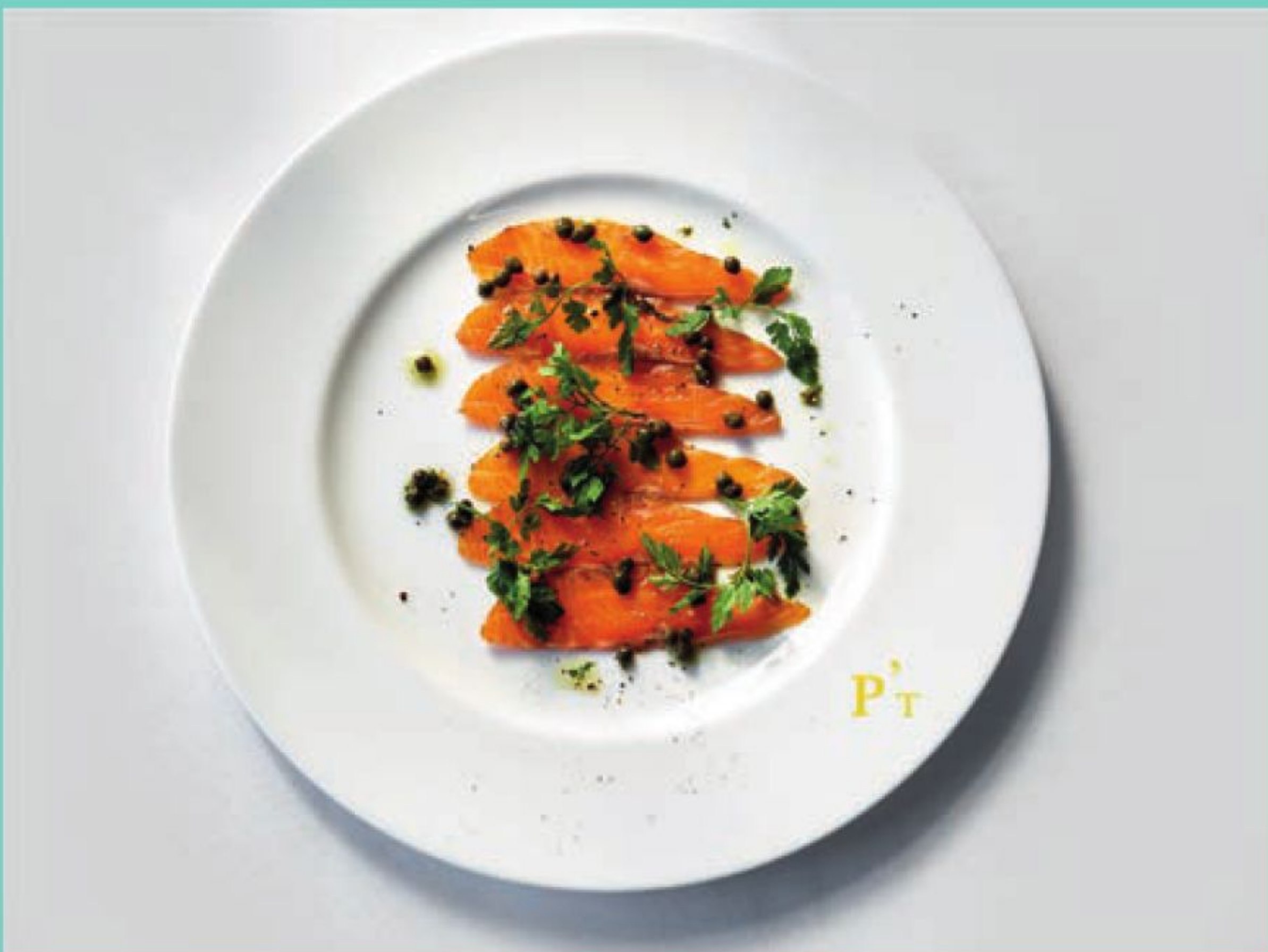
**Photography**, markuzaphoto.com; **Venue**, universityarms.com; **Concept, styling, hair and make-up**, ievagenovesi.com; **Crown and hairbands**, botiasaccessories.co.uk; **Dresses and veil**, burrbridal.co.uk; **Knitted dress**, coopcouture.com, **Flowers**, featherandferns.com; **Models**, @lillygraham; @Chl0klitou and @evamaciag



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10/10

It's always tricky to find the perfect shade, but that should be made simple with the new essential eye wardrobe from MUA. Featuring 10 beautifully buildable tones, six pearl and four matte varieties, they're just £1.50 each! With exceptional pigment to rival brands 10-times the price, can you really afford not to try them all! What's more they are 100% vegan and cruelty-free to boot! Check out [muastore.co.uk](http://muastore.co.uk)



The key to being big-day ready is to start your beauty regime early! Here's a pick of the latest health and beauty essentials to help you look good and feel great from the inside out.

*Danielle* x

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



## Brush it off

The key to great make-up application is down to having the right tools, and that means high quality brushes; enter beauty and lifestyle brand, Lily England! The company's new brushes, in stylish black, gold and marble, are hand-finished, vegan-friendly and are not only affordable but are totally wedding-album-worthy! Luxurious and cruelty-free, the range boasts sets for the face, eyes or a full brush kit. Each synthetic brush is made with high-quality super-soft bristles designed to last – suitable for people with sensitive skin! The new range also includes chic marble make-up and travel bags, great for stylishly organising your toolkit. The set is £45 and is available at [lilyengland.com](http://lilyengland.com)

# BEAUTY BUZZ



## THE FACE HAS IT

Creating a tan-compatible, cosmeceutical, vegan skincare line was essential to the Amanda Harrington philosophy and tanning range. The just-launched New Skin Face are advanced glycolic facial pads designed specifically to promote rapid exfoliation and to create the perfect smooth base. These generously sized, ultra-soft and biodegradable cotton pads are soaked in a bespoke blended formula of glycolic, fruit acids and soothing aloe vera – to expertly polish, brighten and refresh the face.

A must-have multi-tasker, erasing unwanted tan or leftover traces of make-up, they are gentle enough to use 3-4 times a week within your usual skincare routine – brightening the skin and removing impurities, creating the perfect canvas for tanning. Priced £18 for 30 facial pads visit [amandaharrington.com](http://amandaharrington.com)

## HONEY, HONEY

French pharmacy brand Nuxe has just added two new products to its iconic collection. Perfect for creating that bridal glow, they soothe and nourish dry and sensitive skin. The Nuxe Reve de Miel collection (literal translation Honey Dreams) is aimed at dry and sensitive skin, using honey and precious essential oils which will wrap the skin in softness. The Ultra-Comforting Face Balm uses nourishing, soothing and repairing active ingredients while the Melting Body Balm with honey, provides a sensory and effective response to dryness – exactly what parched, dry winter skin needs, a cocoon of argan, honey, mimosa, vanilla and botanical oils – hello beautiful! Face Balm, £27.50, Body Oil Balm, £22.50, Lip Balm, £10.50 at [escentual.com](http://escentual.com)



## PERFECTLY BAKED

The B.Makeup collection at Superdrug boasts four new B.Baking Powders – a big-day essential for the bride and her girl squad. Finely milled for an effortless lightweight application, they instantly mattify, blur and help make-up stay in place all day. Vegan-friendly and cruelty-free, there is a choice of four shades; translucent, light, medium and dark. Priced at just £6.99, they're available from [superdrug.com/brandshop/B/makeup](http://superdrug.com/brandshop/B/makeup) and stores nationwide.

## MIGHTY MULTITASKING

Hydrating and oxygenating this AHA cleanser is mild, yet ultra-effective, with a beautiful and comforting texture. Priced £58, visit [mzskin.com](http://mzskin.com) and Harrods and Harvey Nichols nationwide.





## BE KIND

Reading the back of products can certainly lead to confusion with names and ingredients you don't recognise and then follows the worry of not knowing what you're truly putting on your skin! Step forward, Kind Natured, the skincare brand that believe in keeping it natural. There's three key ranges encompassing all your beauty needs, from facial oils to jelly masks, eye creams to moisturiser, each comes under one of the following:

### ♥ BRIGHTEN

**Ginseng** – helps to plump and firm skin which leads to a naturally radiant glow.

**Grapefruit** – Grapefruit helps even the complexion, delivering a natural luminosity.

### ♥ HYDRATE

**Coconut milk** – the natural fatty acids within coconut milk make it perfect for treating dry and irritated skin.

**Cotton** – rich in Vitamin E and fatty acids, which help to reduce inflammation, soothe skin and moisturise.

### ♥ CALM & SOOTHE

**Shea** – Shea has proven anti-inflammatory properties, helping to calm any redness and alleviate dryness caused by sensitive skin.

**Aloe** – Rich in vitamins and known for its soothing properties, Aloe helps to calm and soothe the skin.

Full skincare range available to purchase at Boots stores and boots.com

## GOING GREEN

Greenpeople has some exciting new launches. Pure Luxe Body Oil (£25) is blended with plant botanicals for superior radiance and an unrivalled skin glow. Rich in pomegranate and phospholipids, this leaves the skin with a beautiful satin-soft finish. Next up the aptly named Ultimate Wonder Balm (£32); a richly rejuvenating multi-purpose beauty balm which can be used as a cleanser to effectively melt away make-up or utilise this SOS balm to soothe and protect sensitive lips, tame eyebrows, nourish cuticles or soothe dry skin anywhere. Available from greenpeople.co.uk, selected Holland & Barrett stores nationwide and online.

## DAY TO NIGHT

Introducing Babe Night, the new fragrance by Missguided adding to its award-winning collection.

The intoxicating new fragrance opens with citrus notes of lemon, orange and green apple and develops with heady accords of orange blossom, jasmine and spicy pink pepper. Base notes of musky vanilla, cedar and patchouli make Babe Night the ultimate scent to take you from day into the evening – perfect for the 'I dos' to the first dance!

Available in an 80ml Eau de parfum, Babe Night is vegan-friendly and cruelty-free. Priced £28, from missguided.com

## SAVING PLANET EARTH

Tisserand Aromatherapy collaborates with National Geographic so brides can rest assured they're buying their beauty products without damaging the planet!

The collaboration has been designed to protect and respect your wellbeing as well as the earth's and celebrates the power of nature from all over the world, with three new aromatherapy blends housed in fully recyclable packaging. Putting sustainability at the core of the collection, it's been created with 100% PCR (post-consumer recycled) plastic, 100% natural ingredients and a dedication to giving back to those who work in conservation via the not-for-profit National Geographic Society. The three blends are available in six options priced from £9: Shower Wash, Bath Oil, Diffuser Oil, Roller Ball, Mood Mist, Travel Kit (compromising Bath Oil, Mood Mist, Roller Ball), packaged in a reusable vegan cosmetic bag (£20). Available from Boots and tisserand.com

## BRONZED BEAUTY

Due to popular demand, the Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam from Coco & Eve is now back in stock after selling out over 190,000 units in just nine weeks!

Packed with key ingredients such as mango, guava, banana, linseed oil, there's definitely no biscuit smell here! This self-tan is the world's first tan with anti-cellulite technology to blur pigmentation and perfect skin for all occasions. With a lightweight and non-sticky formula, the tan is fast-drying and develops in just two-hours – perfect for hen dos, big-days and honeymoons!

100% vegan, natural DHA, and no nasties, this is certainly the self-tan you need. Priced £29.90, check out uk.cocoandeve.com



**Nature's Kitchen Super Protein Skin Boosting Anti-Ageing Moisturiser, £26.99, Lovelula.com**

"I have sensitive skin that gets easily irritated when trying new products, so I was a little apprehensive about testing this vegan-friendly moisturiser. After a few days of use, my skin felt hydrated and much to my surprise, it didn't feel irritated. The cream has a light consistency and soaks into your skin nicely. It provides moisture throughout the day but doesn't feel or look oily and smells divine. I'll definitely be buying it in the future." – **Melissa Barker**



**Babe Night, £28, missguided.com**

"I'm a fragrance fanatic and firmly believe you don't have to spend a fortune to get a great scent, from high-end to budget-friendly, I've tried all sorts. Babe Night had a gorgeous aroma from just opening the box! I was keen to have a spritz immediately, and adored the heady notes of orange blossom, jasmine and pink pepper – everyone in the office commented on it immediately and it lasted for my night out after work that evening too. This is now one of my go-to scents, and at only £28 for 80ml it's a bargain to boot!" – **Danielle Harvey**

**Marble Luxe 9-Piece Make-up Brush Set Black & Gold, £45, lilyengland.com**

"I've tried so many different make-up brushes from the cheap to the expensive, but I can't say I've ever found any that'd I'd deem indispensable. Until now that is! My absolute favourite in this set is the F10 kabuki foundation brush. It gives my base a flawless finish and uses much less product than applying with fingers or a standard foundation brush. It's an expensive business gathering the perfect tool to build each element of your look, so it's well worth investing in a set like this, as it's great value for money." – **Kelly Andrews**



**Coco & Eve Sunny Honey Bali Bronzing Foam, £29.90, from uk.cocoandeve.com**

"I love Coco & Eve's iconic hair mask as it does wonders for my locks, so I was intrigued to see if my skin would get the same nourishing treatment with its new bronzing foam. It adheres to its vegan ideals and is packed with lovely natural ingredients. The foam is lightweight and easy to apply with the rather luxurious velvety mitt. It develops in two hours and leaves your skin with an almost airbrushed look thanks to its Cellushape™ formula, which promises to hydrate and firm the skin. The thing I don't like about normal fake tan is that tell-tale biscuity smell, but the summery mango and guava scent of this product means no one will know your secret." – **Hannah Faulder**

# SEAL OF APPROVAL

We put to the test the latest vegan-friendly products

**Kimberly Sayer Cellular Extract Eye Lift Gel, £31.70, Lovelula.com**

"As a bit of a night owl, I regularly pay the price with puffy eyes, fine lines and dark circles. This handy gel tackles all of the above and is a real morning-after saviour. Light, non-greasy and easy to use, a little goes a long way. It gave the delicate skin around my eyes an instant lift, plus my concealer and foundation went on like a dream afterwards, with no caking – win, win!" – **Sarah Reeve**



**MUA Essential Eyeshadow, Ember, £1.50, muastore.co.uk**

"I have never used eyeshadow from this brand before and was eager to try it out for the first time and it didn't disappoint, especially because it's so affordable too! The colour is spot on for autumn with its stunning burgundy and shimmery finish that pops on the eye. I found it very easy to blend with no fall out which earns this brownie points for me. I have oily eyelids which I was worried about but after wearing this eyeshadow for a few hours it didn't budge. This single eyeshadow not only looks and feels great but is the perfect size to be able to slip it into your bag and apply more if desired. I will definitely be buying more!" – **Olivia Gibson**





# HAIR & BEAUTY

Local experts talk 2020 bridal trends



## LESS IS MORE

**Brooke says:** The year ahead is set to be all about statement veils and understated hair and make-up. Get the look by teaming a textured bridal ponytail with natural flawless make-up. If you're worried about your complexion, think about seeing a skin specialist a year or so before to see what you can do to get it in tip-top condition for the big day!

My favourite foundation for a glowing, sheer natural finish is the Charlotte Tilbury Light Wonder Foundation, teamed with a shade of their Eyes to Mesmerise for a subtle shimmer on the lid. To get that all-important glow, use the brand's Beauty Light Wand to pat on to the high points of the face and any area you want to catch the light. Finish with a soft and smoky kohl liner and a lick of waterproof mascara to add definition to the eyes.

For an easy yet chic and modern hairstyle, team loose waves with texture spray. Pull into a loose ponytail leaving tendrils free to frame the face and soften the look. Finish by adding a small hairpiece such as the Elmley hairvine (pictured), hand-crafted by Eden B. Studio. Then find your statement veil – check out Crown and Glory for some super fun and quirky ones! Most importantly, be yourself on your big day.

**Brooke Thompson | Hair and make-up artist |**  
[bohobeautybox.co.uk](http://bohobeautybox.co.uk)

EXPERT ADVICE



bigphatphotos.co.uk

## NEED TO KNOW

**Kirstie says:** The 2020 bridal catwalks have never looked so fresh and effortless. Undone updos, hair entwined with flowers, jewelled headbands and make-up with splashes of colour. Here are a few pointers to help get you started!

**HAIR:** Half-up and half-down, with loose beachy waves is still very much a trend for 2020. Statement flowers in the hair, bejewelled vintage pieces or beaded headbands are popular, along with relaxed braids flattened out. The bouffant, low pony tail with tendrils around the face looks very chilled and pretty. Add a ribbon tied low for hair that's fuss-free and out of the way so you can dance the night away.

**MAKE-UP:** The catwalks have been showing lots of dewy and glowing, hydrated, natural-looking skin. Colour's added with flushed cheeks and pink lips or berry shades to make more of a statement. Eyes are more nude with eyeliner in bold colours for the brave. Whatever style you like, here are my top tips to make sure you get the most out of your make-up trial:

**DO** research different bridal looks in wedding magazines and Pinterest and take pictures with you so your make-up artist can visualise what you want.

**DO** ask as many questions as you like, even if they seem silly, as it will help build a picture of exactly what you're looking for.

**DO** ask for advice on how to improve your skincare routine in the lead up to the big day. We can recommend products to tackle any problems and treatments that might be beneficial.

**DO** keep an open mind and consider ideas your make-up artist may offer. We deal with hundreds of brides and different skin types and with the right consultation can help you look like the best version of you based on the best products, application and shades to suit your skin tone and eye colour.

**DO** make sure you have some top-up products for the day. I usually tell my brides to get their own lipstick colour, usually the same we've used at the trial or one very similar. I also recommend buying a translucent powder to use later in the day and for the evening celebration.

Above all make sure you find a hair and make-up artist you can bond with. It's one of the most important days of your life so you want people around you that make you feel relaxed in order to enjoy your wedding morning. Have a chat before booking a trial and go from there!

**Kirstie Barton-Grimley | Make-up artist |** [kirstiemakeup.com](http://kirstiemakeup.com)



# Dance TOAST LOVE



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# FLOWER *power*

Romantic wedding styling  
full of fabulous florals and  
dreamy details

*Images courtesy of  
Simon Watson Photography  
and HSR Photography*





This magical photo shoot marries the best of the old with the new. Set at the magnificent Hautbois Hall near Wroxham, the historic grade II listed Elizabethan country house and grounds provided the perfect backdrop for local suppliers to work their magic. With a host of wedding spaces inside and out, including the atmospheric barn and grounds, the blank canvas venue was the perfect foil for the romantic English country wedding theme.



**Photography**, [simonwatson-photography.co.uk](http://simonwatson-photography.co.uk) and [facebook.com/hsrphotography](https://facebook.com/hsrphotography); **Venue**, [hautboishall.com](http://hautboishall.com); **Organiser and make-up artist**, [facebook.com/mrsbsbeautynorwich](https://facebook.com/mrsbsbeautynorwich); **Hair**, [instagram.com/tanyawoollacotthairstylist](https://instagram.com/tanyawoollacotthairstylist); **Flowers, styling and props**, [authenticcharm.co.uk](http://authenticcharm.co.uk); **Dress**, [ellicelydia.com](http://ellicelydia.com); **Suit**, [vintagesuithire.co.uk](http://vintagesuithire.co.uk); **Cake**, [loveweddingcakes.co.uk](http://loveweddingcakes.co.uk); Models, **Emily** ([instagram.com/emmeblanc](https://instagram.com/emmeblanc)) and Taylor Mackintosh





# Where old meets new

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[www.littlegreenweddingbarn.co.uk](http://www.littlegreenweddingbarn.co.uk)  
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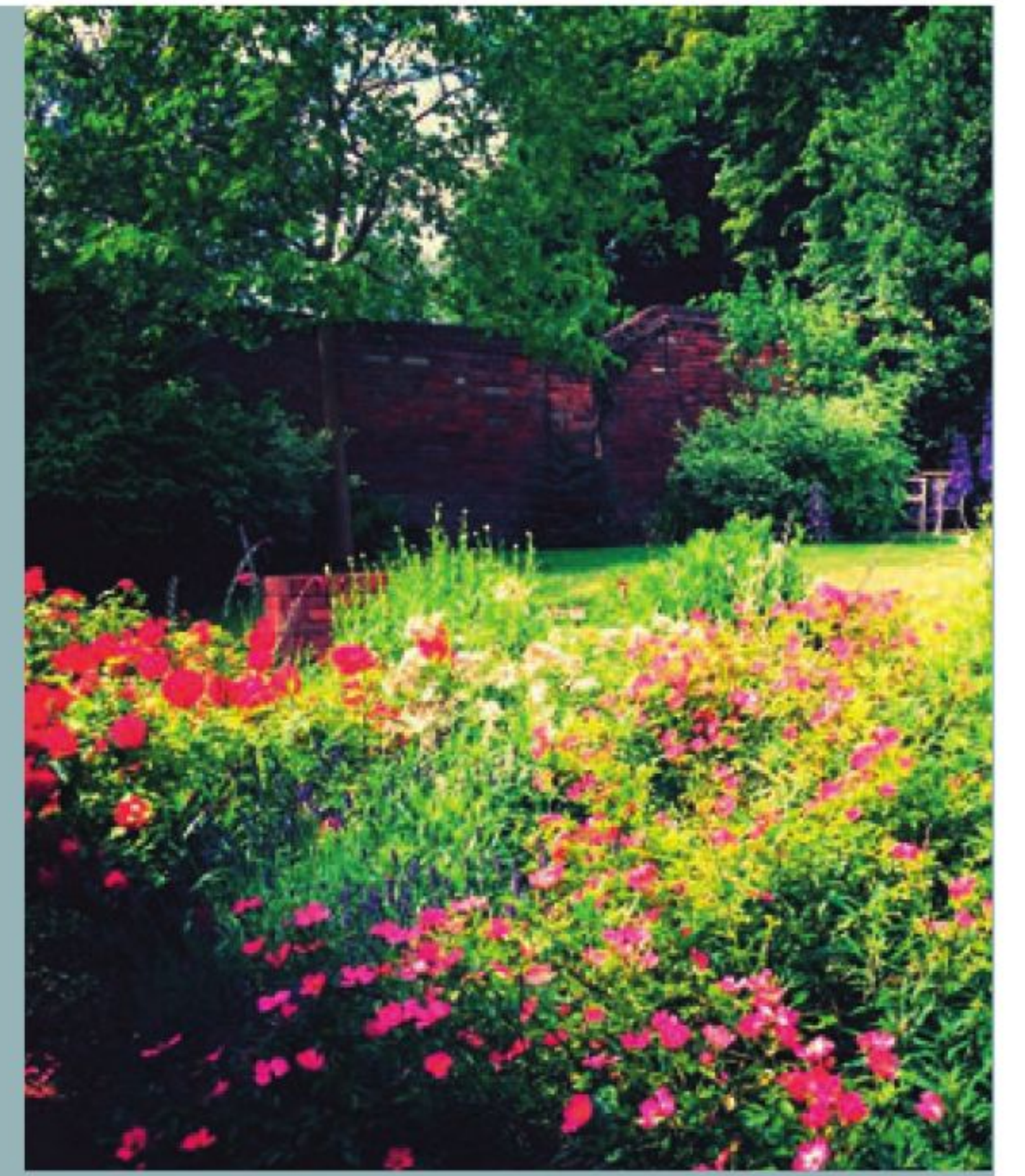
01473 831263 [allmanorofevents.co.uk](http://allmanorofevents.co.uk)



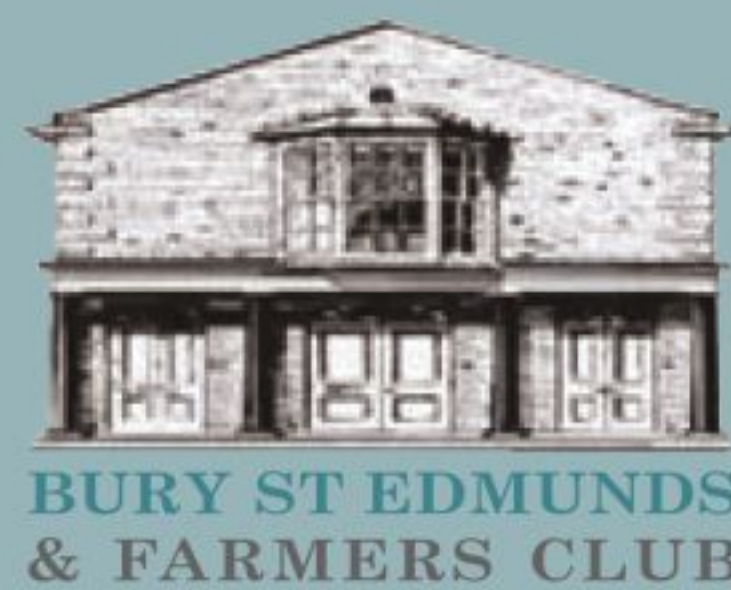


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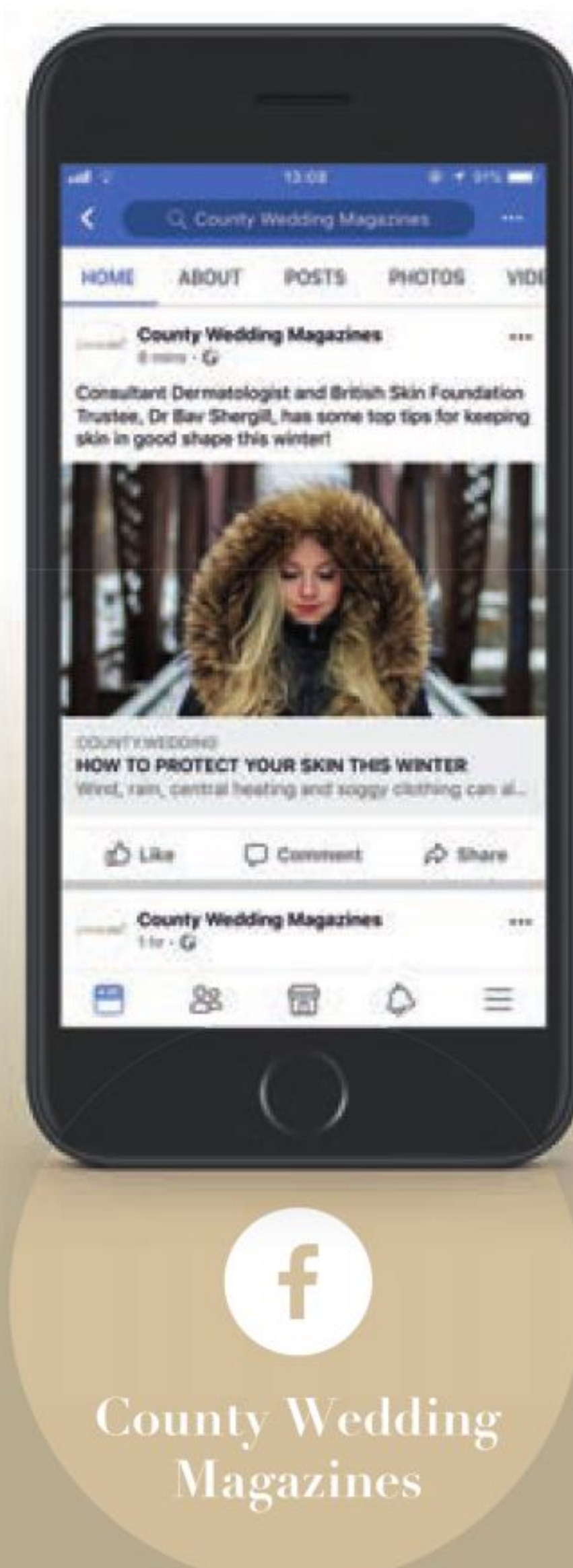
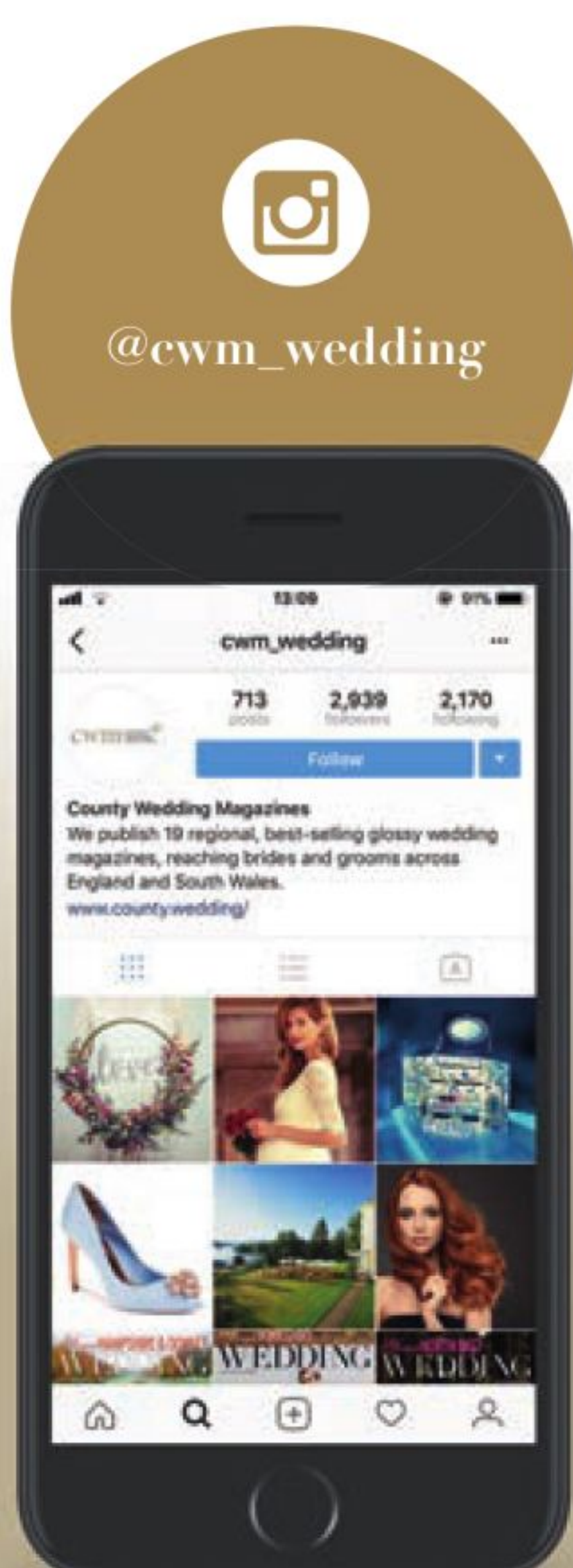
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For further wed-spiration and to keep up to date with the latest news and trends check out our *County Wedding Magazines'* Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages



What's more, our editors are on hand to help brides-to-be with all their planning problems:

- Ask us anything, whether you're on the hunt for a local venue or simply looking for ideas and advice
- Find local suppliers
- Top planning tips from the pros
- Tell us about your big day for your chance to appear in the magazine
- Special subscription offers
- Win wedding essentials with our exclusive giveaways and competitions



## KEEPING WATCH

The new Areo Collection from BOSS Watches (Hugo Boss) boasts masculine chronographs impeccably crafted from stainless steel with a choice of Italian leather strap, matte and polished black bracelet styles.

The pilot-inspired functionalities of this watch include a slide-rule bezel and two matching logarithmic scales – one stationary, the other rotating – to make a host of multiplication, division and conversion calculations possible. A retrograde chronograph movement including a date display defines the bold design.

Priced £499 from [hourtime.co.uk](http://hourtime.co.uk)



## FROM THE WAIST UP

The new Butler Stewart Christopher Waistcoat is a beautifully tailored addition to the big-day wardrobe!

Waistcoats are as popular as ever with grooms, and this instant outfit upgrade comes in five tweeds and all feature a solid coloured satin back with a cinch buckle. Notch lapel and two welt pockets are just some of the attention to detail given to this classic garment. Colours include Oxford Blue, Dark Brown, Heather, Harvest Brown, and Pear Green, all priced £225 from [butlerstewart.co.uk](http://butlerstewart.co.uk)



## Read all ABOUT IT!

Danielle Harvey shares her latest news and product launches for the man of the moment



## Showers forecast

This travel-size shower trio is perfect for any budding groom offering one for each big event; the stag do, wedding day and honeymoon!

From The Groomsmith collection these mini shower gels are certain to refresh and revive you, priced at £5, from [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)



## BEST FOOT FORWARD

New online store Quarter & Last offers high-end footwear at the click of a button. From the finest selection of Derby brogues to Chelsea boots there's something for every style of groom – handpicked from a curated selection of luxury brands! This range is supported by a high level of customer service, including free UK next day delivery and free UK returns.

Northampton plays a big part in Quarter & Last's collection with several of its stocked brands born in the area including Barker Shoes, Joseph Cheaney & Sons and Tricker's England, alongside popular names such as Loake and Jeffery West.

Australia's well-known heritage boot brand, R.M Williams, is also available including its iconic Craftsman boots and Chelsea styling.

Leather and rich shades of suede lead the collections in both tailored and casual footwear with prices from £140 to £445. Quarter & Last is available online now at [quarterandlast.com](http://quarterandlast.com)

## Super hero

We love the new Jimmy Choo fragrance Urban Hero the perfect big-day scent! For this new addition, the brand chose to celebrate the intensity and contrasts of modern masculinity, this woody aromatic eau de parfum is inspired by the urban environment.

On top, the freshness of precious lemon caviar with its vibrant undertones combines with the warmth of black pepper. Its heart opens onto the sensuality of rosewood and the sophistication of vetiver. The dry down combines the urban elegance of grey amber with a note of leather for just a hint of rebellion. Priced from £33 to £70 from [theperfumeshop.com](http://theperfumeshop.com)





# CHEEK MATE

Rock this perfectly patterned look





£14, mandco.com

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POA, atelier412newyork.etsy.com



£429, tedbaker.com



£225, chesterbarrie.co.uk



£70, riverisland.com



£60, simoncarter.net



£69.99, Maestro Brown, baselondon.com



£25, farrar-tanner.co.uk





# HOT TOPIC

Local experts on 2020 weddings

## YOUR DAY, YOUR WAY

We've just started planning our wedding and the range of options for everything from the ceremony to the finishing touches is pretty overwhelming. We've no idea what the current trends are, where do we start?

**Sarah says:** For couples saying 'I do' it certainly seems to be a case of 'I' for 'individuality' these days. There's a greater lean towards original and contemporary celebrations, creating an ambience or a mood, as opposed to being led by popular ideas, colours and themes. Couples are increasingly embracing the flexibility to create their special day from a blank canvas, hand-selecting the suppliers who are best-placed to bring their vision to life.

The world of weddings has seen many changes over the last 15 years, from the introduction of civil partnerships in 2005 to the legalisation of same-sex marriage in 2014, and most recently the ability for opposite-sex couples to enter into a civil partnership. It's an ever-changing and diversifying environment, which enables couples to express their personalities and preferences in every detail of their day. Trends for the year ahead, include:

- ♥ Couples choosing their rings together – both the engagement ring and wedding bands, sometimes even creating them from scratch. It's much more common now for both parties to be involved.
- ♥ Increased concern over sustainability and ethical considerations to reduce the environmental impact of the big day, such as choosing wedding stationery made from recycled card or using caterers who endorse locally sourced produce. Charitable donations are also now a popular choice, as an alternative to the traditional department-store wedding gift list.
- ♥ For the ceremony itself, more and more couples are opting to use a celebrant to create a bespoke script written just for them. It's not just about the vows either, the whole ceremony should reflect their personalities and personal love story. It's such an important part of the day and couples want it to be memorable for all the right reasons.

**Sarah Baker | Celebrant | [norfolkbluebellscelebrant.co.uk](http://norfolkbluebellscelebrant.co.uk)**



## BLOOMS IN BLUE

We'd like to include a nod to the 2020 Pantone Colour of the Year Classic Blue in our wedding flowers. What seasonal options would you suggest?

**Rebekah says:** Although true blue flowers are relatively uncommon, each season provides a selection, many of which are grown here in Britain; a plus for the eco-conscious bride. You could even include some in your bouquet as your *something blue*.

Spring gives us delicate muscari (grape hyacinth), and later the delicate nigella; commonly known as love-in-a-mist. Summer sees the arrival of cornflowers and statuesque delphiniums, while for autumn weddings you can include beautiful heavy hydrangea heads. Blue thistles are great for winter and add texture too.



**Rebekah Ellis | Florist | [roseandrhubarb.com](http://roseandrhubarb.com)**



## LEADING LADIES

I've been living with my boyfriend for a while now and as 2020 is a leap year, I'm thinking of proposing on February 29<sup>th</sup> as I've been told it's the traditional day for women to take the plunge. Is that right?

**Grace says:** There's a traditional mindset that proposing is mainly the responsibility of the man but, according to research by social dating app True View, the truth of the matter is a whopping 69 per cent of men rather like the idea of their girlfriend getting down on one knee. So, when is a good time to do it? That's tricky, after all in the spirit of female empowerment I'd say anytime is a good time to take control, but if you've got your heart set on tradition, February 29<sup>th</sup> is historically the day for women to take the plunge.

There are various theories about where this concept originated from. Some suggest that it dates back to Scotland, in 1288, when Queen Margaret supposedly enacted a law allowing women to propose on leap year day as long as they were wearing a red petticoat to signal their intention. Any bachelors who turned down hopeful women on this day had to offer up a consolation prize, like a kiss, a silk dress or gloves.

If you're considering popping the question, you certainly won't be the first to do so. In fact, you'll be following in the footsteps of many celebrities, pop stars, singers and famous people. Queen Victoria asked Prince Albert to marry her in 1839 and actress Zsa Zsa Gabor proposed to all nine of her husbands, although they weren't leap-year proposals.

The truth is, if you're the kind of person who's happy to take over the reins, you're unlikely to be the type to be bound by convention, so really the whole year's your oyster. What is important however, is making sure the time is right to take the next step.

**Grace Flynn | Events manager |**  
[uffordpark.co.uk](http://uffordpark.co.uk)

## FASHION FORWARD

I'm excited about shopping for my wedding dress but have no idea what the current trends are. Can you give me some pointers?

**Kim says:** Sleeves are a big theme, not just traditional, there are detachable ones and even '80s-style puffball sleeves are making a return, but this time worn off the shoulder. Softer tulle, chiffon and silk fabrics are popular and with the emphasis on less structured silhouettes we're seeing more soft A-line styles with beautiful embroidered details, more bold patterns and less traditional lace. With our fitted silhouette dresses we find the low-back gowns with amazing detail on the trains are really causing a stir.

Colour is still key with everything from soft grey to pink and even black, for those that dare! We stock some gorgeous dresses in nude, blush, and champagne shades which suit most complexions unlike white and ivory which can be draining for anyone with pale skin.

Accessories are key to complete your big-day look. Full-length veils still tend to be the main choice and some of our designers offer matching ones to complement the dress perfectly. There's also continued demand for hair vines to either weave through plaits or frame the hair whether it's worn up or down.

**Kim Burr | Bridal boutique owner |** [burrbridal.co.uk](http://burrbridal.co.uk)



*Megan by The White One*  
Image: markuzaphoto.com







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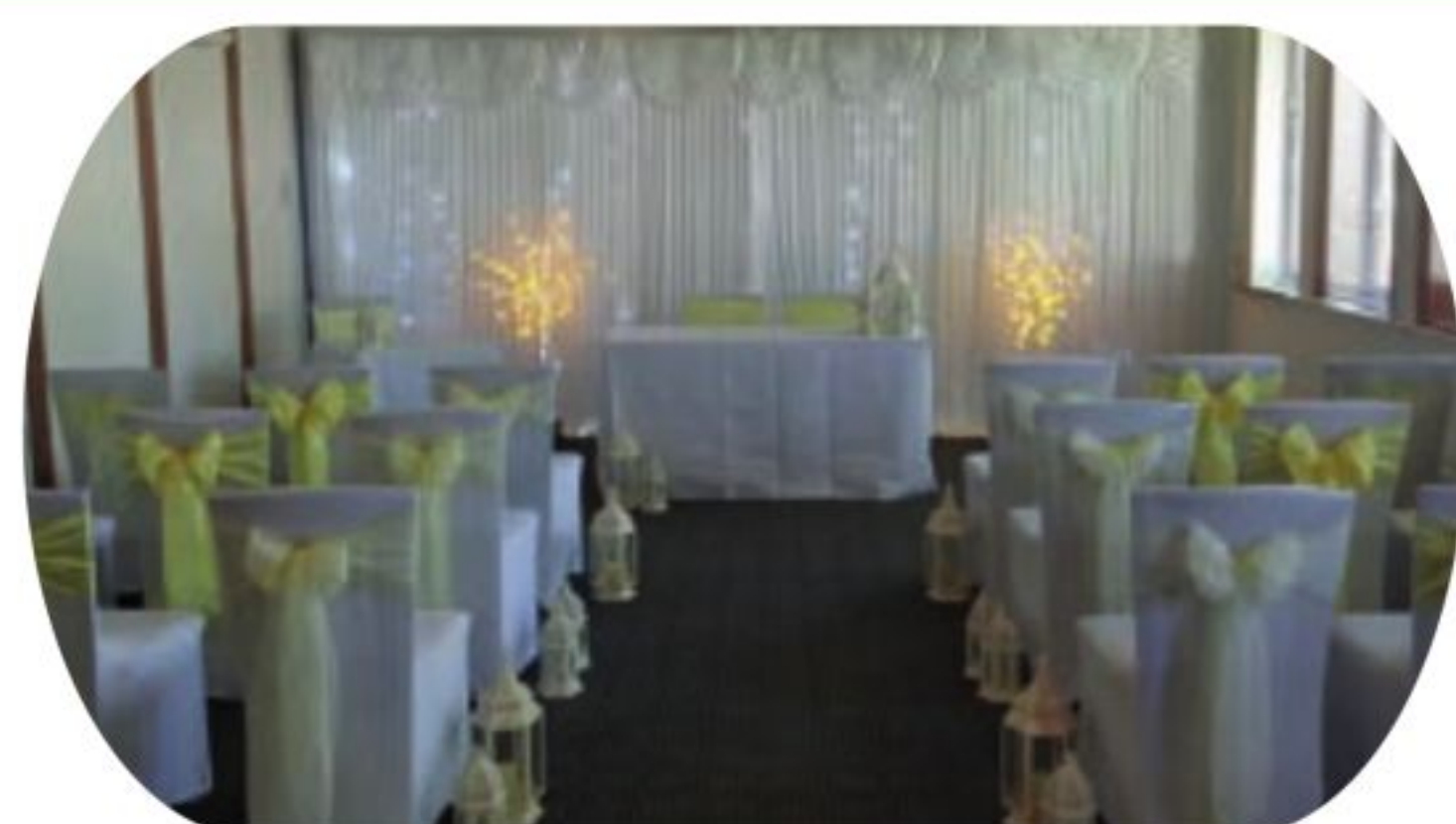
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# WIN!

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COMPETITION

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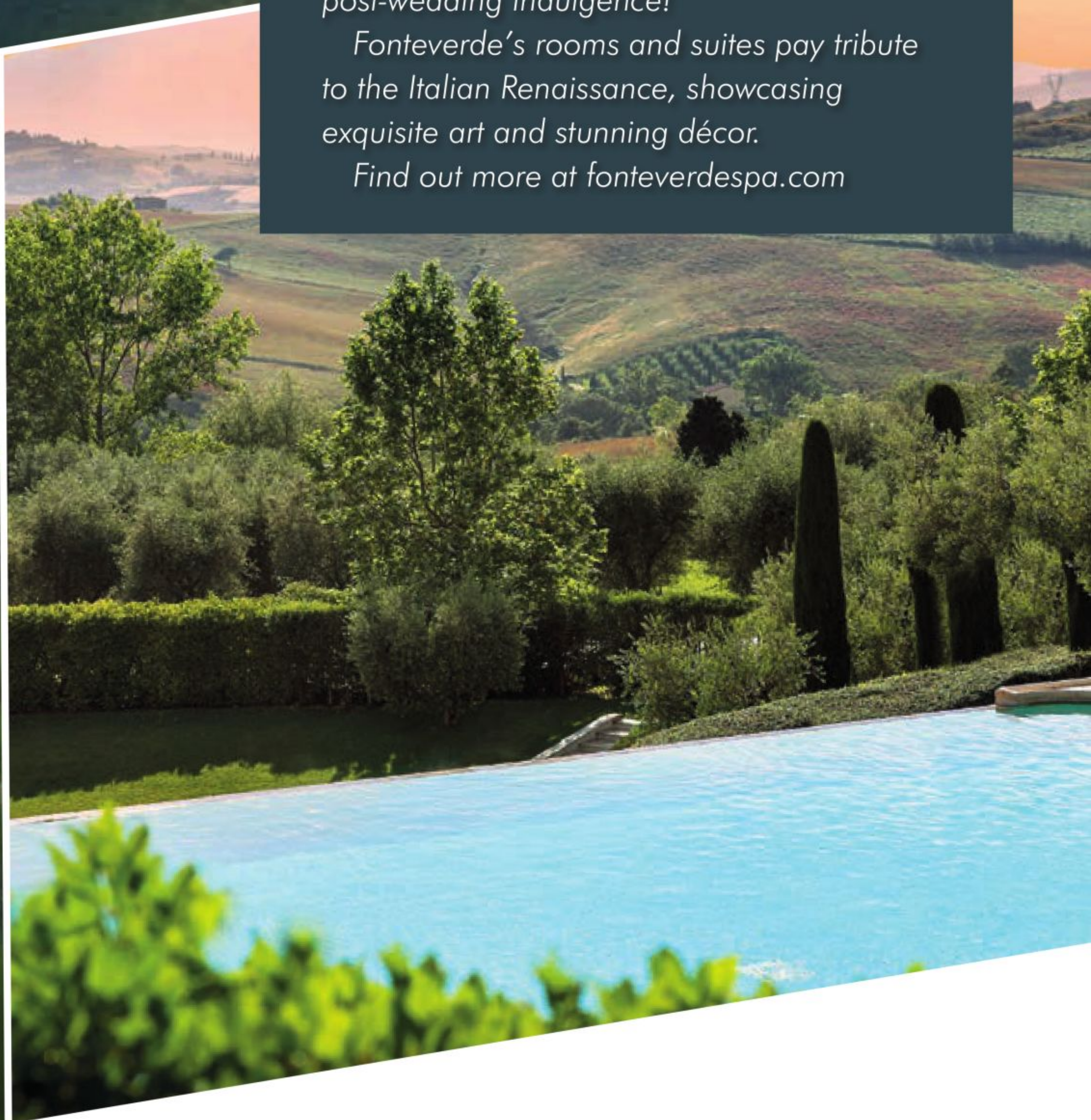
County Wedding Magazines has partnered with the stunning resort of Fonteverde to offer one lucky reader the chance of winning a three-night stay on a half-board basis to the luxurious hotel, plus spa treatments.

Fonteverde Tuscany is located in the stunning Medici Palace of San Casciano dei Bagni, the historic former property of Ferdinando de' Medici. The Renaissance Palace is renowned for its position set upon a natural thermal spring, overlooking the hills of the Val d'Orcia Valle, cypress groves and small churches.

Hotel of the 'Worldwide Health & Wellness Destination of the Year' is credit to its natural thermal spa and large spring water pools from which to soak up the panoramic views of the hills beyond. Honeymooners can enjoy a range of indulgent beauty and massage treatments, from nourishing clay facial masks to invigorating thermal massages, and choose to participate in the brand's award-winning Equilibrium programme, designed to reduce internal inflammation and rebalance the body and immune system – the perfect antidote to post-wedding indulgence!

Fonteverde's rooms and suites pay tribute to the Italian Renaissance, showcasing exquisite art and stunning décor.

Find out more at [fonteverdespa.com](http://fonteverdespa.com)



### THE PRIZE

- ♥ Three-night stay
- ♥ Half-board basis
- ♥ One spa treatment per person

### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win, simply answer the following question:

***In which region in Italy is Fonteverde located?***

Enter online at [youreastanglian.wedding](http://youreastanglian.wedding)

The closing date is 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. See website for details.





## SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

The stunning Greek island of Rhodes is perfect for newlyweds seeking a relaxing getaway.

A destination famous for its serene sunsets and breathtaking beauty, the recently renovated five-star, adults-only Lindos Village Resort & Spa is perfectly located between mountain and sea.

For a truly romantic experience, couples can visit Lindos' most picturesque beaches including St Paul's Bay, which is naturally formed in the shape of a heart. Dramatically overlooked by the town's historic acropolis, honeymooners can spend an evening under the stars while enjoying Greek and Mediterranean delicacies paired with traditional Rhodian wine – all to the backdrop of a candlelit beach.

Couples wanting to explore further afield should head for the nearby island of Symi – famously known for its delectable shrimps – where a sprinkling of colourful neoclassical houses and harbourside eateries glisten along the Aegean Sea.

For further details about Lindos Village Resort & Spa, visit [lindos-village.gr](http://lindos-village.gr)



## YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

For a mini-moon to remember, how about staying in Sprat & Winkle, a newly refurbished converted Victorian train carriage?

The London and South Western iron clad corridor coach has been fully converted into a cosy holiday let, complete with light fittings from the Orient Express and vintage luggage racks.

Newlyweds can sit back and relax with a barbecue on Platform 1 at Horsebridge railway station in Hampshire, or set out for a stroll along one of the many country footpaths nearby.

Sprat & Winkle is priced from £425 for three nights. To book, visit [mulberrycottages.com](http://mulberrycottages.com)

# HONEYMOON



From a five-star adults-only resort in Greece to a converted railway carriage in the UK, Demelza Rayner showcases a selection of the latest honeymoon hotspots

## BEACHSIDE BLISS IN ST LUCIA

One of the island's best-loved adults-only resorts – Rendezvous – is now offering a wider range of complimentary romantic experiences including 'bubbles and sand', 'stars and a movie' and 'wine 101'.

For 'bubbles and sand', a picnic rug is set up on the beach just before sunset with a bottle of champagne. 'Stars and a movie' describes a film screening on the beach, with comfy seats set up on the sand, and popcorn and drinks served. Finally, 'wine 101' is a fun, informal tasting session.

In addition, there are two experiences available at an extra charge; a couple's cookery class and a massage lesson at The Spa in the Water Garden.

Visit [theromanticholiday.com](http://theromanticholiday.com) to find out more



## Bright ideas

Have some fun with your honeymoon luggage. Available in bright red, lime, sea green and stone grey, these brilliant bold cases are ideal for standing out on the carousel. Visit [tumi.com](http://tumi.com) to find out more.





## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

If the darker evenings and cold mornings just make you want to hibernate, then the decadent 'Behind Closed Doors' winter honeymoon package from Blakes Hotel London will help you to hibernate in style!

Upon entering one of Blakes' beautifully designed suites, couples can abandon their layers, slip on Kiki De Montparnasse silk pyjamas and jump into the king-sized bed.

For the ultimate 'do not disturb' experience, breakfast, lunch and dinner are served in-room, with unlimited room service. This includes oysters – a known aphrodisiac – along with chocolate pastries and a Laurent Perrier Champagne Jereboam that can be enjoyed in the room or in a luxurious bathtub.

Find out more at [blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors](http://blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors)



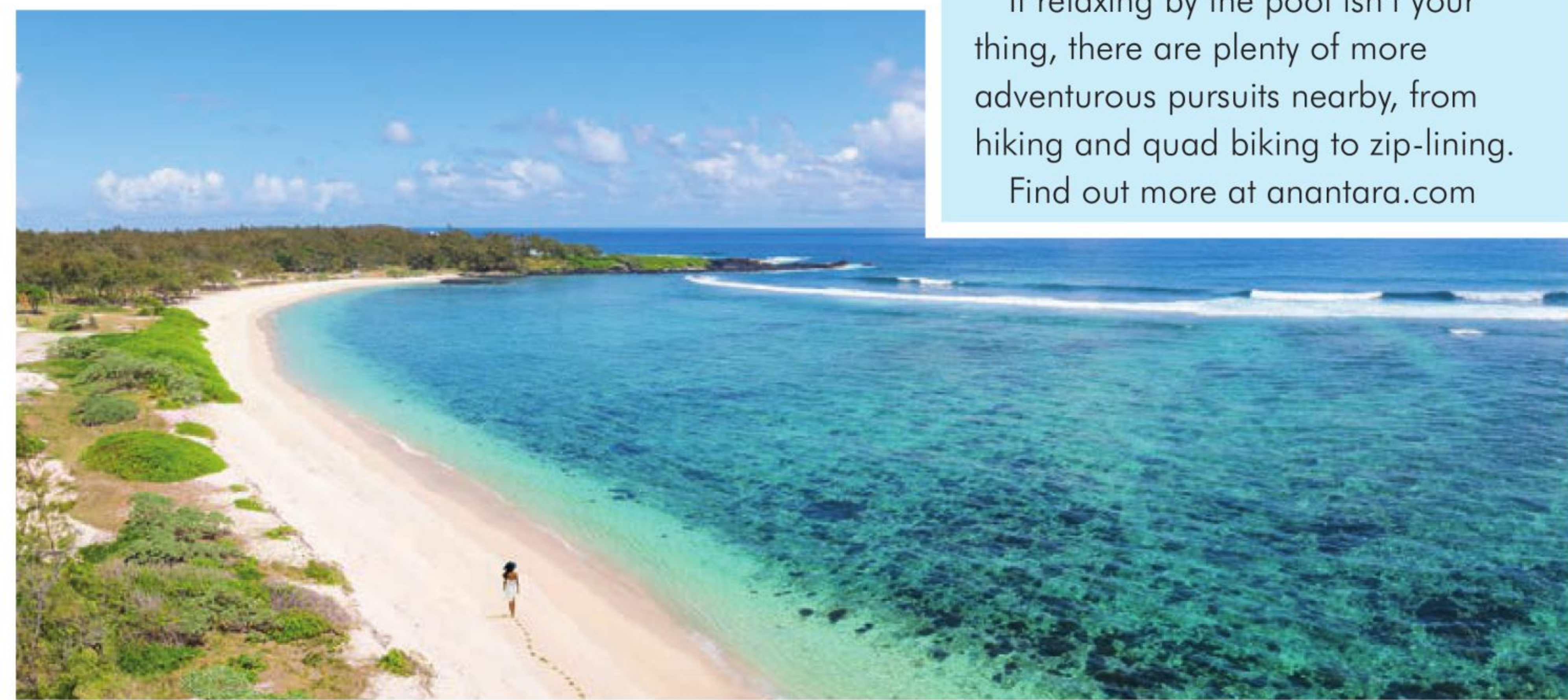
## TREAT YOURSELF

Discover the stunning south coast of Mauritius on your honeymoon while staying at one of the island's newest luxury hotel openings – the Anantara Iko Mauritius Resort and Villas.

Fringed by acres of sugarcane and the crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the resort is ideal for newlyweds, boasting the signature Anantara Spa, an array of exotic dining options and numerous stylish suites.

If relaxing by the pool isn't your thing, there are plenty of more adventurous pursuits nearby, from hiking and quad biking to zip-lining.

Find out more at [anantara.com](http://anantara.com)



## EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

What could be more romantic than viewing the solar eclipse in Argentina and Chile in December 2020? Luxury travel firm Hayes & Jarvis invites couples to explore these captivating countries with its Patagonia discovery tour. Beginning in the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires, the tour will continue on a magical journey including hiking on the still-growing Perito Moreno Glacier, a catamaran cruise across the Biosphere Reserve of Tierra del Guero, a whale-watching cruise, seeing Magellan penguins and unbelievable scenery along the way.

For further details visit [hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk)



## KUONI'S TOP 10

Top luxury travel firm Kuoni has recently released its 2020 travel hotlist, providing plenty of new destination inspiration for soon-to-be-weds.

Exploring countries beyond the well-trodden tourist trails is a key theme for the year ahead, so Kuoni has created more travel options to places including India, Africa, Canada, the USA and Italy for couples who want to see the world's natural wonders in lesser-known regions, national parks and states. Destinations tipped for increased bookings in 2020 include:

1. India, beyond the Golden Triangle
2. Zimbabwe, back after years of political instability
3. USA, direct flight to Charleston and Portland increase demand for fly-drives
4. Indian Ocean, 16 new hotels added for 2020
5. Greece, luxury credentials on the up
6. Colombia, added to its escorted touring programme
7. Japan, the buzz continues for the Olympic Year
8. The Caribbean, new hotel openings
9. Canada, escape the crowds in winter
10. Italy, slow travel in the regions of Puglia and Basilicata

Colombia features for the first time in Kuoni's escorted touring collection, with a 12-night tour taking in the country's coffee-growing region and UNESCO-listed old town of Cartagena.

Hotel openings in Antigua raise the bar for luxury with Hammock Cove and its collection of ultra-modern pool villas due to open in December, while in Mauritius the new adults-only Lagoon Attitude has a strong sustainable ethos.

Luxury credentials in Greece are on the up for 2020 with the Angsana in Corfu a notable addition – an offshoot of the Banyan Tree brand, it is cool and contemporary and mimics a classic Greek hilltop village.

Find out more at [kuoni.co.uk](http://kuoni.co.uk)



# SWISS MARVEL

Claire Muffett-Reece discovers why Switzerland is the perfect summer honeymoon destination



When I was offered the chance to visit Switzerland in July I'll admit it wasn't a season I'd initially choose as my preference. The Alps are typically known for their ski season, and it was hard to envisage a trip that didn't involve an abundance of snow. How very wrong I was about to become...

My destination for three nights was none other than Suvretta House, a five-star hotel in the heart of St Moritz that's welcomed the Kennedys, Eva Peron and the Emperor of Japan through its doors. Built in 1912, this Art Deco wonder is nestled in the Alpine landscape of the Upper Engadine, on the Chasellas plateau in Suvretta. With Suvretta itself being 1,850 metres above sea level, your honeymoon starts the very minute you touch down at Zurich airport, as the scenery you'll encounter on the three-hour train journey to St Moritz is some of the most romantic you'll ever see. I'd taken my laptop with the idea of working on the journey, yet constantly found myself rushing from one side of the train carriage to the other, snapping glacier blue rivers and snow-capped mountains as we climbed higher and higher to our destination.

Upon arrival at the train station we were greeted by the hotel's vintage green bus, which took us straight to Suvretta House for a delicious afternoon tea. Suitably stuffed after far too many sandwiches and scones, I was given a key (a proper key, none of the problems of your key card locking you out of your room!) to my Junior Deluxe Suite, a huge room complete with walk-in wardrobe, large bathroom with separate shower and panoramic view of the mountains and lakes of the Engadin. I could happily have spent my time lounging around in this magnificent space, but after a quick change it was down to dinner in one of the hotel's off-site mountain restaurants, Chasellas.





## COME DINE WITH ME

From our very first dinner at Suvretta House it became clear that the hotel takes feeding its guests seriously. Chasellas, situated 1,936 metres above sea level, offers 45 indoor seats and an inviting sun terrace directly situated at the entrance to the ski and hiking area. Expect typical Austrian fare to fuel you, from Bavarian sausage, fried chicken 'Viennese style' with potato salad, and Swiss fillet of beef with prawns. Suvretta House also has another off-site restaurant, Trutz, which is even higher up the mountain for those seeking a more active honeymoon experience! A mere 2,211 metres above sea level, it's reached by around a 90-minute hike (or cable car if you fancy a less energetic approach). Ask to sit outside and enjoy the stunning views, taking advantage of the blankets that are offered – even throughout the summer months. Here I enjoyed an ice-cold Viva Tavola beer while getting stuck into a variety of dishes, from air-dried meats and Wienerschnitzel, to polenta with gorgonzola and a delicious barley soup.

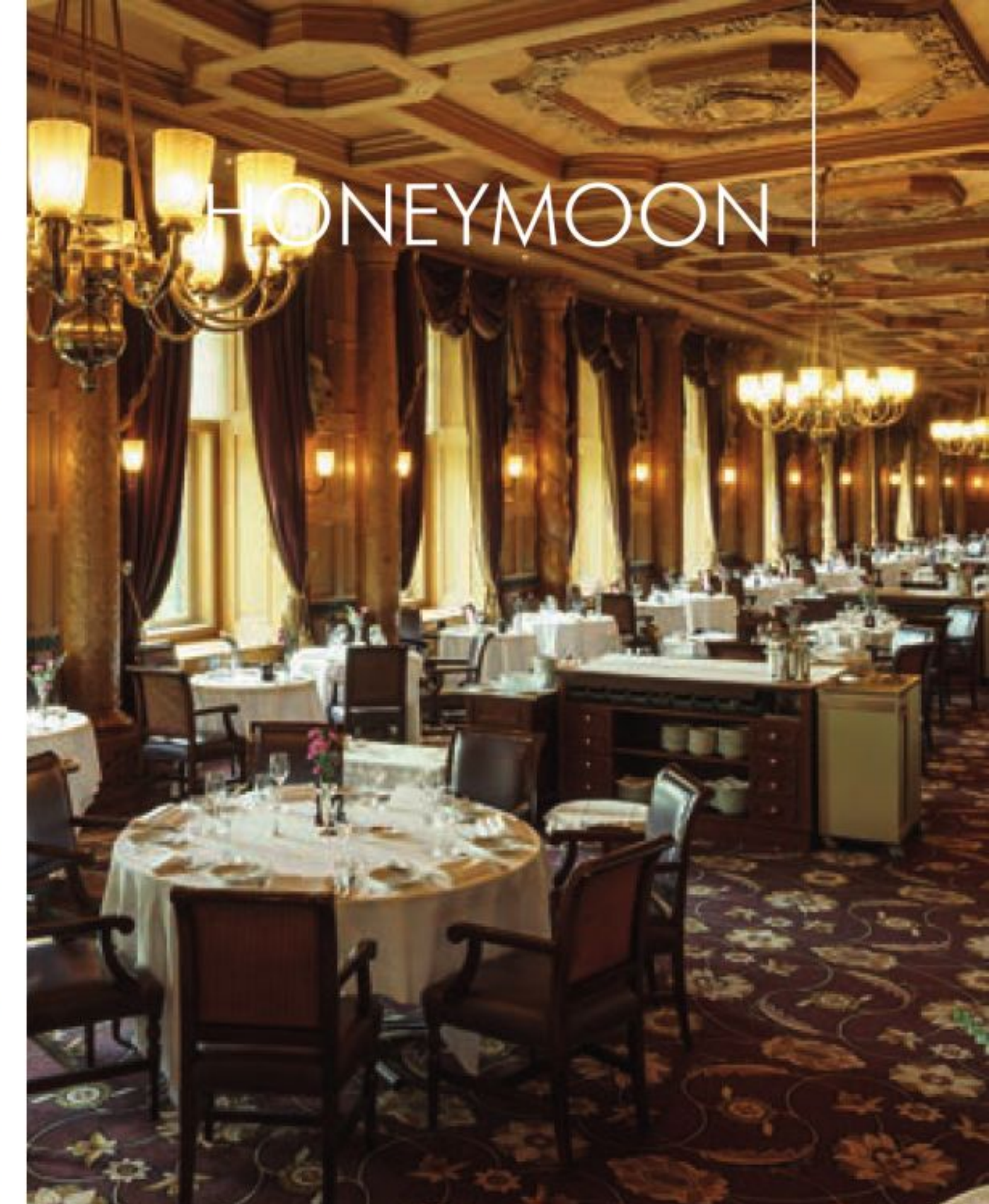
For me, however, the best meal of the entire trip was at Suvretta's Grand Restaurant, a breath taking room with incredible panelling, carved solid oak columns and elaborately decorated cassette ceiling. There I enjoyed a warm lobster salad with Amalfi lemon and green asparagus, followed by a saddle of summer venison. Completing the meal with cheese and biscuits, I was glad to take full advantage of Suvretta's outdoor summer activities to help burn off those extra calories!

## LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Looking through my itinerary, I was pleasantly surprised to see many activities available for those visiting Suvretta House in the summer season. Swapping ski boots for hiking shoes was my first port of call, with a hike up the mountains with our experienced guide, Heinz. Making sure to turn on my Strava app before we set off, I was impressed to discover our party had hiked just over 6km, with a calorie-burning 385-metre elevation, in just shy of two hours. That's not bad considering we weren't yet accustomed to being that high above sea level!

The following day it was time for a bike ride – and I've never been more thankful to be given one of the electric variety! Foolishly thinking it would be a leisurely jaunt around a flat-level lake, we were soon heading off-road and up into the mountains! Before I knew it we'd clocked up a bottom-burning 25km – and another elevation of 388 metres!

Throughout my stay at Suvretta House I also took part in a tennis lesson – I'll never be a Serena or Venus, mind you – and enjoyed the hotel's incredible spa facilities, with a refreshing swim followed by a full body massage. However, one activity I'll never forget is sailing on St Moritz Lake, with an experienced sailing instructor from Suvretta Sports. Sitting there, enjoying some of the freshest mountain air and cleanest waters in the world, I saw why you should one hundred per cent choose the mountains of Switzerland – and Suvretta House – as your perfect honeymoon destination.



## BOOK IT

Summer rates at Suvretta House start from 410 CHF (approximately £347) in a Double Room Standard Mountain, per night, on a half board basis. Book your honeymoon at Suvretta House by visiting [suvretthouse.ch](http://suvretthouse.ch)



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APRIL/MAY 2020

ON SALE: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020



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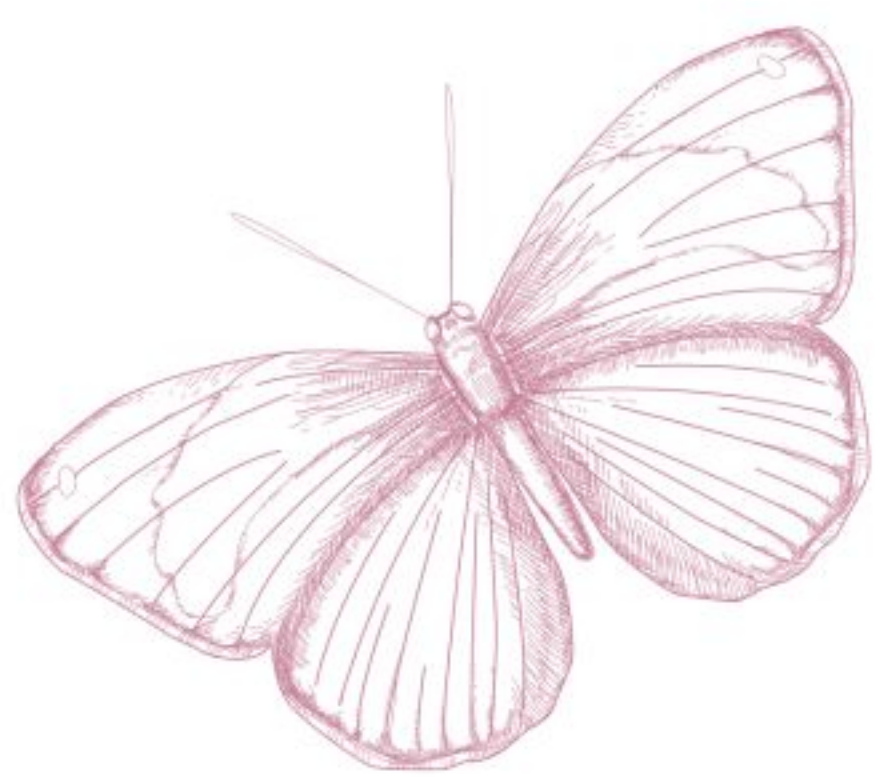
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